



# MORTAL KOMBAT

CLASH OF THE CLANS

FAN  
FICTION

HEINOUS

## *FOREWORD*

Isn't it amazing what you can do out of boredom. Although, this story is almost an entirely complete rip-off of the original Mortal Kombat, it turned out to be quite interesting. My favourite character in the complete universe must be the ninjas, so I started writing this story just for fun back in 2000 and quite literally got hooked on the story. I didn't really had to plan much as the backgrounds of the characters were already set.

I'm a die-hard fan of the franchise and wrote this fan-fiction just for amusement to see what would happen if I put all my favourite MK ninjas against each other in one story- Although this story isn't part of the MK mythology, the backgrounds of the characters are; and I studied all the MK movies, episodes, comics and games so the backgrounds set for each character is entirely true. Other characters such as Aqua, Ruban, Viper, Mist, Vapor and Ja'kaar are from other fan-fiction stories I found on the internet.

I wanted a love triangle revolving somewhere in the story, so I chose my best female MK character Sonya Blade as having a crush on Sub-Zero (remember this story is entirely fictional), but later realized it was some kind of stupid thing to do as I made Sonya sound like a sixteen-year old dumb blonde.

Like Liu Kang, Johnny Cage and Sonya Blade who were the three chosen ones in the original Mortal Kombat, I also created a group of people who stars as the heroes the

famous Sub-Zero who is the lead character and the younger sibling of the original

Sub-Zero, Smoke who is Sub's most faithful friend and was replaced in his human form for this story, Rain who was killed in the MK Annihilation movie and Hydro. Hydro is from the MK comics title Blood & Thunder, but anyone who read the comics knows Hydro got ambushed by Scorpion in Blood & Thunder #4, so how can he be also in this story? Well, technically Scorpion did beat Hydro to a bloody pulp but did not kill him; however he erased Hydro's memory of him ever meeting Scorpion in the 10th MK tournament. Dusk was added for fun as Smoke's brother who were the sons of Shadow, a brotherhood of the Shadow grandmaster.

As I said, I started writing this story for amusement in 2000, so don't blame me if it's crap; I was freaking 15 back then. However I continued the story up till late 2001 and stopped after Chapter 20 for three years, but decided to write the two final chapters and epilogue in late 2005. You can see when I started writing the story, my typing skills sucked but later as the story unfolds the layout becomes more readable, although there are still some spelling errors, not that you can make it out.

Special Thanks to Josh Gilbert aka WeQon X

## HEINOUS HEIN

# MORTAL KOMBAT

## CLASH OF THE CLANS

### BY HEIN "SUB-ZERO" KLOPPER

It was a full blue moon; a breeze rustled the leaves on the trees. Two figures appeared on the horizon, it was Sub-Zero and Smoke two former Lin Kuei.

The two Ninja's was just past a boulder, when suddenly a bolt of lightning struck the rock in two, from the heart of the blaze came a shape of a man. "Rayden!" Sub-Zero yelled "Greetings ice ninja, long time no see" "Rayden what is the honour of your visit, you usually do not bother with the likes of us" " Well I'm sorry I bothered you two, taking your walk under the moon, but I came with a message" "Oh really, and what would the message be?" Smoke replied. "I came to tell you, that you two are among a few chosen others to compete in a tournament"

Rayden replied "But isn't it a bit early for the next Mortal Kombat?" Sub-Zero questioned. "It is not Mortal Kombat or at least it is not like Mortal Kombat, it is a tournament that only ninja's can compete in to show their loyalty to their clan" "But we don't have a clan anymore we disbanded it, you know that" Smoke said. "Don't interrupt." Rayden replied "Now as I was saying the ninja's must compete to show their honour to their clan, but if good loses and bad wins, then hell will break loose on earth realm, and then we have nothing to do but bear the consequences." And who is hosting this so called ninja tournament?" Sub-Zero questioned. "I thought you'd never ask." Rayden replied "The host of this tournament will be you're former grandmaster, Onero."

"Onero." Sub-Zero's eyes narrowed at the sound of that name. "I will go on this tournament and I will rid, Onero from the face of the earth." "That can't be your only reason or you will fail." Rayden replied.

"I know what you say, Rayden. You gave me, Liu Kang and Kung Lao the speech about a thousand times." "Good, you and Smoke will aboard the ship that will take you to Shang Tsung's island where it will take place."

"Master theirs someone here to see you" a zateranian warrior came into his master's dojo. "Show him in!" Reptile ordered. Quan chi came walking in with a scroll under his arm he bowed and said. "Quite some place you got here Reptile." "That's not the reason why you came Quan Chi, what do I owe the honour for your unexpected visit" "I'm here to report to you, that you were chosen to compete in a tournament." "Interesting." Reptile sat up from his stool. "And where does this tournament take place?" "It takes place on Shang Tsung's island" "And why must I compete in this tournament?" Reptile asked. "This is no ordinary tournament, it's only between ninja against ninja, and the one who wins the tournament will prove his clan is the strongest and most fearless. And if you win, think what Shao Kahn will give you." Reptile rubbed his chin and said, "You have a point, and I will go on this tournament to prove one's and for all that the zaterranians are the most strongest and fearless clan of all realms." Reptile smiled and then said, "When will I leave?" "The ship will leave tomorrow morning to the island." Quan chi bowed and then walked away.

Reptile gathered all his warriors up in front of his dojo "Fellow raptors, I gathered you all here to choose two escorts who will help me win a tournament.'

"Choose me, for I am one of your most trustworthy warriors!" a raptor warrior shouted, "No, choose me, I am one of your strongest fighters of the clan!" another raptor acclaimed.

"Silence!" Reptile shouted "You all are too stupid, for such a tournament, I will choose two of my best warriors of this clan to accompany me, Komodai and Viper, unless anyone has a problem with that!" all the zaterranian warriors bowed and walked away.

"Now if I understand you correctly, you want to participate in this tournament though we are sending our best warrior, you wish to accompany him, is that correct, Dusk?" "Yes grandmaster I was also invited to attend, and I will fight to the death to keep the Brothers of the shadow's name high." "Bold words, Dusk, go and help Noob Saibot win the honour of our clan's name."

Hong Kong, this is where the journey begins, the journey that will prove the chosen fighters their loyalty to their clans. "Look! Look at that" Sub-Zero pointed at the ship that will lead them to broken limbs or worst—DEATH. "It hasn't much change since our last journey" Smoke replied.

"There they are!" a voice shouted. Sub-Zero and Smoke spun around to see where the call came from. Two ninjas were walking towards Sub-Zero and Smoke "Sorry if we

startled you" one of the ninjas said. "I am Hydro" the ninja bowed, he was dressed in blue, in a costume almost similar to Sub-Zero's but not quite, he had swords placed at the back of his back that was hold by some kind of rug sack. The other ninja wore a costume that was exactly like Sub-Zero's but it was purple in colour. "Who, may I ask, are you two?" Smoke questioned. "I already gave you my name, this is Rain my fellow kombatant, we two, like you are also former Lin Kuei warriors" "I never seen you two around in the HQ before." Smoke replied. "That's because we left before you two joined the Lin Kuei." Rain replied "You see, we two retired in the Lin Kuei, before you arrived. Rain and I then became freelance warriors." Hydro answered "My last mission was to accompany your brother to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mortal Kombat tournament." "You knew my brother?" Sub-Zero questioned "You're brother was the most loyal man I ever met. And it is an honour to meet his brother." "Your brother was the best man I ever worked alongside with." Rain replied. Just then, a strong, loud voice was heard from the ship "Everyone on board, the ship is now leaving!"

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 2

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN "SUB-ZERO" KLOPPER

The air was dry. The sky was dark, for it was 05:00 in the morning. Smoke gave an enormous yawn behind his garnish mask. "If you folks will excuse me. I didn't get any sleep last night, so I'm going to lie down in my chamber." "So who else is on board ship?" Sub-Zero asked. "Two members of the Brothers of the shadow, three members of the raptor clan. Shao Kahn send a warrior from Outworld to compete in the tournament. You, me, Rain and Smoke. That's all I know off. But I suspect there will be more warriors on the island awaiting us." Hydro responded.

The three former Lin Kuei's took Smoke's advice and also gone to their chambers. As Sub-Zero entered his chamber. He realized he wasn't alone but that someone was with him in his room. "Who is in here? Show yourself"

A figure then stepped forward from behind the shadows. He was a ninja, dressed in black with two stripes of yellow that went up his chest and down his back. He wore yellow shin-guards, and a yellow belt and loincloth, a black hood went over his head, with a yellow skull-shaped mask over his mouth and nose, that left his eyes showing, that was just white, hollow sockets visible to see.



**"SCORPION!"**

Sub-Zero narrowed his eyes on the ninja of the opposite side of the room.

"You... "Sub-Zero said under his mask

Scorpion also narrowed his demon like eyes, and yelled out in a loud, echoing, demonically deep voice:

**"GET OVER HERE!"**

And with that, Scorpion juttet a hand forward, releasing a dragon like head, and a long metal coil after it. The dragon like head flew directly at Sub-Zero, stopping in front of Sub-Zero's face, glaring at him with fury and golden-red eyes and then the dragon gave an inhuman shriek at Sub-Zero and then retracted back into Scorpion's palm where the coil came from.

Sub-Zero than shifted his body into a fighting stance.

"Do not worry Sub-Zero, I do not wish to fight you."

Scorpion said, but in a demonically voice that simply emanated from his direction. "I came to warn you, that

you are in grave danger on this vessel. Cyrax and Sektor plan to kill you and your three friends before you arrive at the island."

"What do you care if I live or die?" Sub-Zero responded. "Cause, only I have the right to kill you.

To give my soul rest in the hallowed victory hall, we will meet again ice warrior and when the time comes, Scorpion will deliver the deathblow." Suddenly a ring of flames burst forth from the floor and surrounded Scorpion. The flames drew inward closer to him, and as it did, Scorpion began to dissolve among the bright yellow lights.

Sub-Zero quickly ran to Hydro's chamber. As he got to his friends room, he stopped to catch his breath and burst into his room. "What's the matter Sub-Zero? You look as if you've seen a ghost" Hydro replied. "I did, but anyway that's not the point, Sektor and Cyrax is on board. And they're orders are is to find and destroy us before we reach the island!" "I'll go warn the others!" Hydro replied.

As Hydro got to Smoke's room, he heard a loud "crash!" He then kicked Smoke's door open to find Smoke standing over Cyrax. Smoke than grabbed Cyrax by the throat, lifting him up from the floor. "Look you piece of nuts and bolts, I'm tired and very cranky so you'll start by telling me who send you or else there will be a great deal of violence here!" Smoke demanded. <YOU CAN DO WHATEVER TORTURE YOU CAN THINK OFF—BUT A TRUE NINJA DEOS NOT TALK. > Cyrax said in his robotic voice. Smoke then squeezed his hand tighter around Cyrax's neck. Hydro then came and stood beside Smoke and took one of his swords and said. "Look, how would you like to have me cut you in half with this sword?" Hydro threatened. <YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU PLEASE BUT I WILL BE REPROGRAMMED AGAIN BY MY MASTER. > Cyrax responded. "It's no use, he's right, but we can still do something brutal to him. And with that, Hydro then grabbed his other sword and swiped all two blades at the cybernetics head and beheaded him, his head then rolled under Smoke's bed. "Hell! I've got oil all over my swords and I just cleaned it yesterday." Hydro responded.

"Oh my god! Sub and Rain." Hydro shouted. Smoke and Hydro rushed to Rain's room, to find Sektor's body frozen to the ground with a big hole in his body with Sub-Zero

and Rain standing over it. "Well, I see you two took care of things." Smoke said sarcastically. "How did you two do?" Sub-Zero asked. "Our friend back there needs an oil change and a new head." Hydro answered.

The trio then went outside to catch some fresh air. When once again a voice was heard above the ship. "LAND HO!" "Look! There it is! Rain shouted "Finally, we are here..." Hydro responded at the sight of the island.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 3

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN "SUB-ZERO" KLOPPER

Soon after the ship docked. The island of Shang Tsung. "Do you think we will meet Shang Tsung?" Rain asked. "I doubt it." Sub-Zero answered. Just then, three figures approached the warriors.

"Greetings, noble warriors." One of the figures said. "My name is, Onero, and I bid all of you fair welcome." Sub-Zero and Smoke's eyes narrowed at the sight of him. "I have invited the most gifted and powerful ninjas from around the world to participate in this tournament. From the noble Lin Kuei to the dreaded warriors of Zattera. And now I must leave to discuss some matters to my fellow shadow priests. My two guards, Aqus and Ermac, will accompany you to the main hall, where you will be treated with food and drink. I bid you all farewell, for now."

"Aqus! I thought we killed him?" Smoke responded.

"The shadow priests resurrected fallen ninjas to participate in this tournament." Hydro explained. "That explains Ermac's arrival too." Sub-Zero replied. "Guys, I think we better get going, the others already left." Rain then responded.

All the ninjas followed Ermac and Aqus to a great big hall where all sorts of foods were placed. Ermac then turned

around to the ninja competitors "You are all welcomed here with a banquet, enjoy yourselves while you still can. Tomorrow the great tournament will begin." Ermac and Aquas then left the warriors to eat and enjoy themselves. All the ninjas then began to take their seats and to enjoy the delicious food on their table.

Sub-Zero, Smoke, Hydro and Rain took a seat near a window. "I don't trust Onero."

Hydro replied. "Tell us something we don't know." Smoke responded. Hydro ignored Smoke and continued, "He is as treacherous as I've been told." "What do you mean?"

Sub-Zero asked, "Isn't he you're former grandmaster as well?" "No, you see before Onero took over the Lin Kuei, me and Rain already left." "And who was grandmaster then, before Onero?" Sub-Zero asked. "Ja'kaar, he still works with the Lin Kuei, but is a shadow priest for Shao Kahn..."

But before Hydro can continue with his sentence, a chair hit the table followed by a ninja. "What the... Sub-Zero looked at the direction the stool and ninja came from. It came from Reptiles table "That's what you get for messing with Zattera's warriors!" Reptile yelled. Reptile and his two companions stepped towards Sub-Zero's table.

"Back off blue boy or do you want to get every limb and bone broken in your body before the tournament!" Komodai smirked. "I do not wish to fight you Zatteranian but that witch concerns one ninja concerns the others as well. And a wilful, blindsided attack by old foes concerns us greatly." Hydro replied. Komodai laughed and swung a fist at Hydro. But a hand grabbed Komodai's wrist, bend

his arm and threw him on the table. "There are fourteen crucial nerve points in the human wrist. Pressure on these three can bring the strongest man to his knees." Sub-Zero replied.

"My...my hand is freezing!" Komodai yelled. "That's enough!" Reptile replied, stepping in front of Komodai.

"You will now learn what it's like to be on the ugly side of one of Zattera!" Reptile shouted. "Perhaps you'd better deliver your message to me!" Smoke stepped in front of Sub-Zero. "What are you doing Smoke?" Sub-Zero asked. "Don't worry Sub, I know what I'm doing, watch him he'll back down." Reptile then looked at his two companions and did a roundhouse kick at Smoke. Smoke was sending stumbling backwards and spun around from the surprise hit. Smoke jumped to his feet. "Hmmm. Apparently, I was mistaken, good." Smoke then punched Reptile in the stomach followed by an uppercut. Reptile landed and broke another table. He then jumped to his feet, narrowed his eyes and spit some kind of green liquid. "SMOKE, WATCH OUT!"

Hydro jumped at Smoke pushing him backwards as the acid missed them by 5 inches hitting the wall behind them and burned a huge hole in it. Reptile walked at the two ninjas "You're lucky, you barely escaped with your life's, I will let you live to compete in the tournament cause I'm not allowed to slay you before the tournament." As he spoke Reptile walked away.

Hydro and Smoke got to their feet. "We have to watch out, we have made three new enemies this day, Smoke." Hydro replied.

It was getting late and the three warriors went to their room. Sub-Zero carefully opened the door. "What's wrong Sub-Zero? Why do you open the door with so much caution?" Rain asked. "Scorpion was in my chamber today on the boat. It was he who warned me about Cyrax and Sektor." Sub-Zero answered. "Strange, why would Scorpion warn you of danger? I mean, it isn't like him." Hydro replied. "He says that if he can pull it off to kill me it would give his soul peace." Sub-Zero responded. "So, he will protect me and warn me of danger until the time comes and he will be given the chance to slay me."

Sub-Zero and the three others went into their room where they undressed. Sub-Zero's bed was placed at a window. Smoke's bed was placed by the door. Hydro and Rain both shared a bunk bed, Rain on the top and Hydro on the lower bunk. The three ninjas were getting undressed to go to bed.

Sub-Zero took off his mask and placed it on the table along where Smoke and the other two ninja's masks were placed. He then pulled off his hood from his head and took off his blue outfit over his body; he then took off his blue forearm pads and then pulled off his tight, black shirt. Revealing his huge muscles and biceps. Enough to sweep a woman off her feet. But Sub-Zero has no concern with women anymore, it is true he had relationships, but that was in the past. Sub-Zero now only thinks of women as

the mother of man's child and the same can be said for the others in the room. Sub-Zero then bend over and took off his blue shin pads and his black boots only to reveal his black spandex pants. Sub-Zero then climbs into his bed.

All warriors were asleep, except Sub-Zero. He then turned over, and slipped his hands between his pillows. Finally Sub-Zero went to sleep and dreamed about his days in the Lin Kuei. He killed and stole for the Lin Kuei. His best friend, Smoke was ordained in the Lin Kuei. But when he and Smoke pulled it off to destroy the compound. Smoke got his body back in the same way he got planted in a cybernetics body. He dreamed about his allies back home, those who cared about him and he cared about them. About his older brother who was killed by Scorpion in the Mortal Kombat tournament.

It was 07:00 in the morning when the four ninjas woke up. "Good morning guys." Smoke said in a yawn. "Slept well?" Hydro asked. "No, not really." Sub-Zero replied. Sub-Zero dropped down and did 20 push-ups and 30 sit-ups. The other three did the same. Sub-Zero then put on black boots and his blue shin pads along with the rest of his outfit. Smoke, Hydro and Rain did the same. Smoke's outfit was grey for the way he can produce smoke from his body. Hydro's outfit was also blue but not exactly the same costume as the others. His was like a T-shirt shaped shirt and has other forearm pads then the others. Rain's outfit was purple in colour.



The three warriors made their way outside where the other kombatants were. There they met Onero. "Greetings, noble warriors. In a few minutes time the tournament will begin to test your honour and glory..." Onero finishes his speech and shows the contestants to the arena. The arena's floor was shaped as the sign of the Mortal Kombat dragon. And around the sign were all the signs of the clans that were participating. The Lin Kuei, the Zateranian clan, the Brothers of the shadow, the Kwen-lun, the Shirai Ryu, the Komodo Sai. "Smoke! You will be first to compete, with Komodai!" Onero yelled. "Round 1, FIGHT!!

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 4

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

Smoke stepped in the arena and so did Komodai.

"I'm going to enjoy rending you... limb from bloody limb!" Komodai hissed. "And then c when you are finished, you probably going to eat me." Smoke replied. "I have on occasion, eaten human flesh and I have savoured it. But that was a matter of survival. Komodai responded.

Komodai then jumped in the air and tended to kick Smoke. But Smoke then sank into the ground in front of the charging reptile. "Where the hell did he go!?! " Komodai yelled. Just then Smoke appeared behind Komodai in a fog of smoke. Smoke then did a roundhouse towards Komodai's head. Komodai twirled 3 times around from the blow. He then jumped to his feet and hissed. "That hurt!" "Really? Okay... actually I wanted to hurt you." Smoke said sarcastically. "SILENCE! I have no time for earth realm humour! And when I'm finished with you, you'll wish your death was a swift one!" Komodai snarled.

"Oh Please." Smoke replied. Komodai then did a slide knocking Smoke off his feet. Komodai then walked towards him. Smoke rolled onto his hands and knees, with his back to the reptile warrior. As Komodai approached, Smoke kicked back and hit him in the stomach. Komodai stumbled backwards in pain, while Smoke whirled around and kicked him in the face. Komodai stumbled backwards some more, while Smoke got up and kicked him several times. Komodai was sent stumbling backwards as Smoke continued his attacks. Smoke attempted to kick him again, but Komodai jumped and flipped straight over his head, making a 180-degree turn, and landing behind the grey ninja.

Komodai had barely landed on his feet, when Smoke whirled around and kicked him in the face again. Komodai spun around from the surprise hit. Smoke punched him in the face twice, and spun around and kicked him in the chest. Komodai stumbled backwards again. Smoke ran at Komodai, stepping up onto his knee, then performed a backward cartwheel, kicking Komodai right in the face! Komodai stumbled backwards, but started advancing forward again. Smoke meanwhile, spinning around in mid-air, and as he made his way around, he kicked Komodai in the chest with both feet!

Komodai was knocked onto his back, while Smoke landed on his feet, and stood over Him triumphantly.

"God! He's fast!" Hydro gasped." "I know." Sub-Zero replied. "He's actually the most lethal and deadliest assassin of the Lin Kuei, before my brother was killed."

"Excellent Smoke! Now FINISH HIM!!!" Onero shouted.

Smoke looked at Komodai's bleeding face. "Go ahead. FINISH ME!" Komodai yelled at Smoke. Smoke then replied, "With hatred there is never honour."

Smoke then walked away. But as he did, Komodai got up and pulled out a dagger from his outfit. Komodai then yelled and ran at Smoke. Smoke then spun around and in one thrust of his right hand, left a hole in Komodai, half-foot in diameter. Komodai stood in place and stared at Smoke through dying eyes, dropping his dagger and then dropping himself from the near liquefaction of his organs and loss of blood.

All the warriors gasped as Komodai fell to the ground, but not stunned. They saw worse things than this before.

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"OUTSTANDING!" Onero hollered.

Smoke looked at Onero with hatred, then walked to join his friends.

Reptile shook his head in disappointment and he and Viper walked away.

"Do you know where I can wash my hand?" Smoke asked. "There's a lake over by that boulder, you can wash the blood off there." Rain replied.

As Smoke bend down to wash his hand, Rain replied. "Who do you think will be next to battle?" "I don't know for sure." Hydro acclaimed. "But probably one of the other three ninja clans."

"Do any of you guys seen Subsy, by any chance?" Sonya asked. "No, why?" Kitana replied. "I can't find him anywhere, I need to talk to him about something." "Well in that case. You won't find him anywhere." Rayden appeared behind Sonya in a flash of lightning.

"Why? Where is he?" Sonya replied. "He and his ally Smoke are competing in a tournament of life and death." Rayden answered. "Mortal Kombat?" Kitana asked. "No, not quite, he and Smoke are gone to prove the honour of their clan. But, as you know Sub-Zero and Smoke don't have a clan, so they are competing in the tournament to stop the dimensional portal between earth realm and Outworld opening early." Rayden replied. "And if they fail?" Sonya acclaimed. "Well, Sub-Zero and Smoke will either be killed or converted into cybernetics." Sonya gasped. "I must help Subsy win." She replied. "You can't, the ship already left and the tournament is only for ninjas not pretty little Special Forces units." Rayden responded.

On the island, the kombatants were getting ready for the next match.

"Welcome back loyal warriors, I can see all of you trained for the next battle." Onero said in his hostile like voice. "Sub-Zero! You will be next! Your opponent will be Aqus!" "Sub-Zero, Aqus! Step in the arena. Are you prepared?"

"Yes, sir"

"Yes, sir"

"Good. FIGHT!!"

"Prepare to die! Ice warrior!" Aqus shouted and then he waves his right hand at Sub-Zero. Two large bubbles of water appeared from his hand and into the air. They flouted towards Sub-Zero to surround his head and drowning him on dry land. But Sub-Zero quickly froze the two bubbles, backfiring them at Aqus. The two bubbles formed spikes, and the one hit the wall on the right side of Aqus and the other on the left, nearly hitting Aqus in the face.

"You're pathetic! Sub-Zero! What are you trying to do?" Aqus responded. "None of your concern, Aqus. Just try not to get killed and to save a planet." Sub-Zero replied. "You will fail on both accounts!" Aqus shouted.

Aqus ran and leapt into the air. He performed a jump-kick in mid-air and then landed on Sub-Zero's side of the gap.

Sub-Zero dodged to the side as he landed, and kicked Aqus to the side. Blocked. Aqus kicked. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched several times. Blocked and dodged. Aqus kicked twice. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked. Blocked. Aqus punched twice. Sub-Zero blocked the first punch and then grabbed Aqus arm and kicked him in the stomach. Sub-Zero then whirled the arm around, and sent Aqus flipping onto his back. Aqus, while Sub-Zero was still holding his arm, pulled Sub-Zero over, and sent him onto his back. Aqus flipped onto his feet, while Sub-Zero rolled over and got up. Sub-Zero rushed forward and whirled his foot around. Aqus ducked and dodged to the side, and performed a roundhouse. Sub-Zero ducked, and whirled around and kicked Aqus in the side. Aqus bent over in pain, and Sub-Zero took the opportunity to uppercut him in the face. Aqus was knocked feet five in the air and landed on his back.

"You have great skill, Sub-Zero." Aqus replied. "But you are too slow to duck THIS"

Aqus then rolled onto his hands, spun around and kicked Sub-Zero through the face. Sub-Zero spun around and landed on his back. Aqus got to his feet and ran at Sub-Zero. But as he got to him. Sub-Zero grabbed Aqus shirt and hurled him over his body. Aqus was sent flying through the air and landed on his back. Sub-Zero then flipped onto his feet and so did Aqus, just in time for Sub-Zero to kick him in the face again. Aqus rolled and got back to his feet. He kicked. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked.

Dodged. He then performed a double roundhouse. Ducked. Aqus performed a roundhouse, followed by a sweep kick. Sub-Zero ducked the roundhouse and then jumped over the sweep. He kicked to the side. Blocked. Aqus punched several times, then whirled around and performed a mid-air spin kick. Sub-Zero ducked under the kick, and as Aqus landed to his feet, kicked to the face. Aqus stumbled backwards, while Sub-Zero spun around and delivered another kick to the chest. Aqus was sent flying backwards and landed on his back.

Sub-Zero then walked towards Aqus.

"You...Have... won, Sub-Zero." Aqus replied while on the ground.

"I don't know if I rather must kill you or let you live your pathetic life, Aqus?" Sub-Zero responded. "Kill me! For that is the path I choose, then to be trapped on this goddamn Island of hell!" Aqus answered. "I'll rather let you live to suffer on this island then to kill you now." Sub-Zero replied. "But you must. Sub-Zero! That is your doom, you see. . As my doom is to die by your hand, again! Kill me now!"

"What are you waiting for? FINISH HIM!!" Onero shouted.

Sub-Zero then whirled his hands around, and juttet his right hand forward, sending a blue stream of light right at Aqus! The stream hit Aqus right in the chest, and



suddenly, in the blink of an eye, Aquas was frozen in place, covered from head to toe in a thick layer of blue ice! Sub-Zero relaxed his body, and walked away.

"Excellent! Sub-Zero, excellent!" Onero grinned and said.

"Rain! Follow me, I have already chosen your opponent. He is waiting in the opposite room. "

Rain and his three friends followed Onero to the room where Rain will participate in. Onero turned around and said. "Rain, you will stay here. Your opponent will be appearing from those stairs. You three follow me and do not interfere in the battle."

Within a few minutes, Ermac slowly advances from the stairs towards Rain. The two ninjas meet in the middle of the room and bow to one another to show their honour. Rain then went to sidekick Ermac, but Ermac with his quick reflexes, caught his leg and threw him. Rain landed on his back but quickly jumped to his feet again. Then, they both jumped in the air and Ermac threw Rain again. Rain then once again fell on his back.

"What's wrong, Rain?" Onero laughed. "Why can't you get a little dirty? This fight doesn't have to be perfectly clean."

Rain then flipped to his feet and suddenly electricity ran threw his eyes. He then ran forward, placed his hands on

Ermac's shoulders and performed a cartwheel right over his head, making a 180-degree turn in mid-air! Before he landed though, Rain placed his feet against Ermac's back, let go of his shoulders and kicked outward, forcing Ermac rolling forward, while Rain flipped to his feet.

As Ermac got up again, Rain walked forward, and punched him in the stomach, followed by a right hook to the face. Ermac stumbled backwards. Rain delivered a right punch, then a left, followed by double roundhouse kick. Ermac was sent flying backwards towards a wall, breaking the wall from the blow he received from Rain.

As Ermac stood in place again. Rain performed a back flip, kicking Ermac in the face with both feet! Ermac was knocked to the ground, and flipped onto his stomach, while Rain completed the back flip and landed on his feet.

But within moments, Ermac emerges. Crouched on the ground, he begins to amp up. Smiling insidiously through his blood red mask. He then moves towards Rain and unleashes two fireballs from his hand. The fireballs hits Rain in the chest sending him flying 5 meters through the air and onto his back nearly breaking it.

Rain then flipped onto his feet and narrowed his eyes at Ermac. He then lifted his right hand up into the air, summoning a thunderbolt straight at Ermac. The

lightning struck Ermac in front of him; the blow sends him flying half the arena. Rain then turns his back on Ermac and walks out of the room. The battle is finished.

"Get back here and finish him!" Onero shouted at Rain. But Rain ignored Onero and kept walking out of the room. The others quickly followed him. "What's wrong Rain? Why didn't you finish him?" Hydro asked.

"I wasn't perfectly honest with you three. There is a lot you don't know about me." "Like what?" Sub-Zero asked.

"Along time ago, after I joined the Lin Kuei. I was one of Shao Kahn's best generals. I was also sent on many dangerous missions. One of them was to kill the shaolin monk,

Kung Lao, but failed. While I was a general, I met another general of Kahn's armies,

Ermac. He and I became best friends almost like brothers, a trio as you might call it. But one day, Shao Kahn decided to merge the realm of earth and Outworld into one realm. He gathered all his best generals to help him take earth realm. That, was me, Ermac, Sheeva, Motaro and his resurrected queen Sindel. I was his first to send all my warriors of his army to annihilate the warriors of earth realm. Thou I was successful to destroy two warriors of earth realm,

Kabal and Stryker. He was not pleased I didn't destroy the leader of the earth realm warriors, Liu Kang. And he killed me." "He killed you?" Smoke gasped. "Yes, I am one of the resurrected." Rain replied. "But how did your soul turn to the light instead of the darkness." Sub-Zero asked. When I was resurrected, I realized my life had stood for nothing. So, I turned to the light and helped Liu Kang and his earth realm comrades to destroy Shao Kahn and his plans of taking the realm." Rain answered. "Well, I'm glad you decided to join us instead of Shao Kahn and his minions." Hydro replied. "Yes, but it turned Ermac against me and he vowed to destroy me for betraying his emperor." Rain responded. "Sounds familiar." Sub-Zero said looking at Smoke.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 5

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

"This can't go on!" a shadow priest said to his comrades.

"If we can't pull it off to kill Sub-Zero and his three allies, Shao Kahn will surely kill us or imprison us in Netherrealm."

"But who else can we send? A fellow shadow priest replied.

"Don't fret." Onero responded in a grin.

"We still have many powerful fighters to send after them."

"And who, Onero? You may be our leader but remember if we fail to take this realm. Shao Kahn will have your head and ours." A fellow shadow priest replied by the name, Ja'kaar.

"Well, we have two cyber units send out, while Sektor and Cyrax are being repaired." Onero responded. "And who are these two cyber units?" Ja'kaar asked.

Just then the door opened and two cybernetic ninjas appeared from behind it.

"This, meet Vapor and Mist." Vapor was a green cyber unit, with a ponytail tied at the back of its head. Mist was the colour blue; white mist came out of him. "These are

our back-ups if Sektor and Cyrax are damaged. They will do, until Cyrax and Sektor are repaired." Onero grinned. Sub-Zero was taking a stroll on the beach when suddenly he heard a voice yelling at him. It sounded female. Sub-Zero looked up and saw a boat from the sea that came steering right towards him.

"Hello there, Subsy!" the voice shouted. As the figure came to view. Sub-Zero saw Sonya waving at him. As the boat came to a halt at the beach. Sub-Zero stood in place watching Sonya climbing out of the motorboat and came running at him, pressed her breasts against his chest and hugged him. "Oh, Subsy, I missed you." She said, Sub-Zero then backed away from her and replied. "Missed me?" "Yes." She then said. "Why?" Sub-Zero asked. "Because I love you!" Sonya replied. "Love?! Even were it conceivable that I might return your affections but one does not use those one loves!" "Oh, you're still mad about that thing." She lowered her head. "But, Subsy that was nine years ago. Things has changed since then, I really had grown strong feelings for you."

Sub-Zero then lifted her chin up with his hand and smiled. "Sonya, you're right nine years is a really long time and things has changed.'"

Sub-Zero and Sonya made their way to the others at they're chamber.

"Hey guys, Sub's back!" Smoke said as Sub-Zero entered the room.

"Fellas, there isn't a spare bed here by any chance?" Sub-Zero asked as he entered.

"Yeah, but we hardly ever use it, why?" Rain answered.

"We just got a new guest to share the room with." Sub-Zero opened the door a little more and Sonya walked in. "Sonya!" Smoke gasped.

"Why, what brings you way out here?" He asked.

"I believe I already answered that." Sonya then said looking at Sub-Zero.

"Sub, I believe you didn't introduced us yet to your friend." Hydro replied walking to Sonya.

"Uh, sorry, Sonya I like you to meet Hydro and Rain."

"The honour is all mine." Hydro bowed and kissed Sonya's hand.

Rain just shook her hand. "You're very welcome to spend the night with us."

"Semi-taken, but always looking. You remembered me, Sonya don't you, Smoke in the flesh, " younger, cooler, hipper... "Louder." Sub-Zero interrupted.

"Shut-up, Sub. Sonya you'd grown since I last saw you." Smoke smiled, peaking at Sonya's breasts.

"Sonya you shouldn't have come. I don't want to see you get hurt let alone get killed." Sub-Zero replied.

"Don't worry Subsy, I'm a big girl. I can take care of myself." Sonya smiled.

"I hope so." Sub-Zero said. "Sonya, you haven't brought anything to wear except that tight costume of yours."

"Neither did you four." She giggled.

Just then the door behind them exploded.

Two cybernetic ninjas then walked in, a green unit and a blue unit.

"Vapor and Mist!" Smoke jumped back.

Vapor stepped forward and his chest compartment opened. < PERIMETER BREACHED. TARGET LOCATED... As Vapor opened his chest compartment a green-red coloured missile flung toward Sub-Zero.

Sub-Zero back flipped and created one of his ice-clones. The missile struck the clone and exploded.

< AS ANTICIPATED... MORTAL THREAT TO NXM015 ATTRACTS DESIGNATE: SUB-ZERO, PREPARING SECONDARY COMMAND SET... EXECUTE. >

As Vapor spoke he realized he can't move and is raze into the air. Rain roundhouses him and flies across the room and through the wall.

Mist then grabs Rain by the shoulders and hurls him towards Hydro.

< REGISTRANTS NXMOIO AND NXM015 RAIN  
AND HYDRO ISOLATED AND SUBDUED—  
ESTIMATED TIME TO SECURING MISSION  
OBJECTIVE...

FIFTEEN SECONDS. >

"Shut up!" Smoke yelled and gave a roundhouse kick towards Mist's faceplate.

Mist countered by falling to the ground and sweeping  
Smoke's legs out from beneath

As Smoke fell to the ground, he sank into the ground. He uppercut his adversary in the back as he came up behind him.

<DAMAGE SUSTAINED TO APPENDAGES.  
ASSAULT OUTSIDE SCENARIO



PARAMETERS> Vapor was getting back up.  
<ENGAGING NANOTECH REPAIR UNITS...  
RECONFIGURING APPENDAGES... EMPLOYING  
ALTERNATE STRATEGY. >

Vapor tried to get back up but Sub-Zero saw him and went to do his infamous slide. What he does is he slides on ice that is created with his feet and trips his opponent. He struck Vapor and he once again landed on his back. Sub-Zero whirled around and tried to slam his foot into Vapor's bicentennial skull.

However, Vapor rolled and got up just as his foot hit the floor, and dodged to Sub-Zero's side. Sub-Zero kicked up his left foot. Blocked. He then kicked up the other foot and hit Vapor in the stomach. The cyber unit stumbled backwards and hit his back on the wall behind him. Sub-Zero whirled around, and tried to kick Vapor. But, Vapor whirled to his left, and Sub-Zero kicked the wall. Vapor kicked Sub-Zero in the back twice. He tried to kick again, but Sub-Zero ducked under the kick, rolled onto his back, and kicked up his right foot, hitting Vapor in the face. Vapor was knocked off his feet, and flipped onto his back.

Sub-Zero grabbed Vapor by the neck and froze it. With one punch to the brittle, frozen neck, Vapor's head rolled across the floor.

Meanwhile, Mist got back up and threw several punches at Smoke's face, which he blocked them all. Smoke then delivered a left hook at Mist's head; Mist fell backward and landed on his back.

"Considering that you used to be an overgrown PC gathering dust in Onero's basement, you sure are full of

yourself." Smoke narrowed his eyes at Mist and unleashed a spear from his hand and very quickly put it through Mist's head.

Rain and Hydro came standing beside Smoke.

"Well, looks like you gave him a headache he'll never forget." Hydro joked.

Sonya stood beside Sub-Zero and put her hand on his shoulder.

"Are you all right?" She asked.

"I'll be all right if you go home where you'll be safe with Rayden and the others."

"Precisely what I was thinking." Came a voice behind the warriors.

"Rayden!" Sub-Zero spun around and shouted in surprise.

"Well, if it isn't Sonya Blade deliberately disobeying my orders again!" Rayden replied. "Rayden! Sorry, I need to see Subsy again."

"Well you've could at least wait until the tournament was finished."

"Yes, I know but what if Subsy got in trouble. Who would help him?"

"That's because he has his three friends here to help him and anyway the tournament is strictly for ninjas, the ones who knows Ninjitsu and if you try to interfere in this tournament you will get killed."

"People do crazy things when they're in love." Sonya responded.

"Indeed they do." Rayden replied.

"I came to tell you that this surprise attack With Mist and Vapor was merely the first, Onero and his shadow priests are planning to send Scorpion and probably Sektor and Cyrax after you too."

"Don't worry about those two bucket heads we destroyed them on the ship." Smoke replied.

"That's what they want you to think, Vapor and Mist are backups for Cyrax and Sektor. During you're battles With Vapor and Co, those two were being repaired and probably got new weapons so be afraid be very afraid." Rayden said sarcastically.

"Shit! I knew we should've thrown them overboard." Smoke replied.

In which Rayden responded "Know you're enemy, know yourself and your victory is never in danger."

"What is that supposed to mean?" Hydro asked.

"Nothing, just a few of my clever words." Rayden replied.

"And now if you five will excuse me, I have some matters to discuss with the elder gods." And With a bolt of lightning, he was gone as if never present.

"What now?" Rain asked.

"Now, we wait for the next match and I'm afraid it starts in a few seconds." Sub-Zero answered. "Sonya, you'd better stay here if Onero sees you... well I'll tell you, it's not going to be a welcome party."

As the four Lin Kuei arrived at the arena where the match will take place. The two Kombatants where already chosen it was Viper and Ruban, a Komodo Sai member.

"Viper, Ruban'. Step in the arena!" Onero shouted.

They both stepped in the Arena. But as Ruban bowed, Viper rushed forward and tried to kick Ruban in the chest, but Ruban dodged and rolled under the attack, ending up behind.

Ruban turned around, and then performed a double roundhouse kick. Dodged. He then whirled around and kicked to the side, then spun around in the opposite direction and hit him in the face. Viper stumbled backwards and spun around, as Ruban ran forward and delivered a kick to the chest. Viper fell onto his back. Ruban ran forward again, and jumped and flipped through the air, and flew straight for Viper, Who saw him coming and rolled out of the way just in time to avoid Ruban's feet.

Viper got to his feet again, and rushed at Ruban. He kicked to the side twice and then attempted a kick to the face. Blocked. After blocking the last kick, Ruban kick several times. Blocked and dodged. Viper punched. Ruban grabbed his arm around and elbowed to the chest and face, he kicked to the stomach, then twisted his arm around and sent Viper flipping onto his back. He attempted to stomp him, but Viper rolled out of the way and swept Ruban off his feet. Ruban fell onto his back and as he tried to get up, Viper hit him in the face with his sweeping foot. Ruban and Viper then both flipped back

onto their feet and faced each other. Both were breathing very heavily.

Then Viper rushed at Ruban and attempted to kick him. However, Ruban ducked and dodged around as the leg went passed him, spun around, and performed a kick to Viper's face. Viper's head was snapped to the right and broke from the blow. Viper's head dangled from his neck.

"FINISH HIM!! Onero shouted.

Ruban looked back at Viper and touched his chest; he then turned away and walked out of the arena. But as he walked, Viper burst out in flames, screaming and fell to the ground.

"Excellent! Ruban, excellent!" Onero shouted proudly.  
"Fatality!"

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 6

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

Back at the four former Lin Kuei's chamber, Sonya was busy cleaning the room and making the beds when suddenly a hand grabbed her shoulder. She spun around and punched at the attacker's face. Ermac grabbed her wrist before she could deliver the punch. "So, we meet again, Sonya." Ermac replied. "Ermac?!" Sonya yelled in surprise. Ermac raised Sonya up, holding her wrist. "I, I thought I killed you?" Sonya panicked.

Ermac narrowed his eyes at her. Sonya lifted her leg and kicked Ermac between the legs. Ermac released his grip in pain. "That was a mistake that will cost you your life, bitch." Ermac responded. "Fight me, Sonya. Make my victory all the sweeter!"

"Oh, man! You have been reading too many bodice rippers, sweetie!" Sonya replied.

With that Ermac yelled, rushed forward, and kicked. Blocked. He then threw a rapid series of lightning-quick punches, followed by several more kicks, forcing Sonya backwards as she blocked and dodged each one. Finally, Ermac connected with a kick to the chest, sending Sonya stumbling. He hit her in the face several

times with a one-leg kick, then whirled around and delivered a roundhouse. Sonya ducked the roundhouse, and kicked. Blocked. Ermac kicked twice. Blocked. Sonya kicked twice. Blocked and dodged. Ermac whirled around and attempted to kick, but allowed Sonya to grab his leg. Ermac took the opportunity to punch her in the face. "Strong little bitch, aren't you!" Ermac spat. He then jumped off the ground, and whirled his other leg around. Sonya ducked under it as it flew over her head, and Ermac landed on his side. He then kicked up his leg and hit Sonya right in the face, forcing her to let go of his leg, and fall onto her back.

Ermac flipped onto his feet and walked towards Sonya. Suddenly, a noise caught Ermac's attention, and he whirled around and looked in back of him, just in time to see, Sub-Zero fly at him and jump-kick him in the face.

Ermac fell to the floor in a heap, as Sub-Zero landed on his feet, and walked over to Sonya.

"Are you O.K.?" Sub-Zero asked.

"Likewise." Sonya groined.

"Sub-Zero? It has been a long time since we faced each other. Now I'm afraid you must die with her!" Ermac hissed.

"Not likely." Sub-Zero replied.

Ermac turned his head towards Sonya "You have no stake in this."

"You're Sub-Zero's enemy, and he's my friend." Sonya replied, placing her hands on Sub-Zero's hands. "You mess with him, you mess with me.',"

"As you wish..." Ermac yelled, running forward and jump kicking in the air.

Sub-Zero and Sonya dodged to the side as he landed, and he kicked Sonya in the face, knocking her to the floor. He then faced Sub-Zero, and kicked. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked. Blocked. Ermac kicked twice. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched twice. Ermac dodged the first punch and then grabbed the second, spun around and held his head in a headlock. Sub-Zero kicked up his right foot and kicked Ermac in the face. He released his grip on him and stumbled backwards. Sub-Zero whirled around and kicked Ermac in the chest. Ermac stumbled backwards again, while Sub-Zero ran forward and jump kicked. Ermac dodged to the side and kicked. Sub-Zero returned with a kick to the face. Ermac spun around, and tried to punch. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched twice. Blocked. Ermac whirled his fist around. Ducked. Ermac threw the same fist in the opposite direction and punched again. Sub-Zero blocked, and kicked him in the stomach.

Ermac stumbled backwards, and was sent falling backward as Sub-Zero ran forward and kicked him in the chest. Ermac rolled and got to his feet, as Sub-Zero ran forward and kicked. Ermac blocked and returned with a



kick to the side. He then punched to the face, and tried to kick again. Sub-Zero dodged and grabbed his leg, then hurled him over. Ermac flipped around in mid-air and landed on his feet. He kicked. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched to the face several times, then kicked to the face and chest, sending Ermac stumbling backwards. Sub-Zero ran forward and delivered a jump kick. Ermac fell to the floor, but quickly got up, while Sonya joined Sub-Zero, and stood back to back next to him.

Then, both of them ran forward and jump kicked Ermac in the chest, knocking him to the floor. He got to his feet again, as Sonya and Sub-Zero raced forward at him. They each got on either side of him and began attacking. They each delivered a rapid series of simultaneous attacks, with Ermac in the middle blocking and dodging each one. He delivered several attacks of his own, but they too were diverted.

Finally, Ermac punched to the left, then the right, but the ice ninja and Special Forces unit grabbed both his arms, and twisted them around.

Suddenly, his eye sockets began to glow with a fiery yellow light. Sub-Zero and Sonya quickly let go of his arms.

Sub-Zero turned to Sonya next to him, and replied, "Get close to me."

Sonya turned and gave him a disgusted look. "Subsy, seriously, this is neither the time nor the place!"

"Just do what I say and get over here!" Sub-Zero snapped.

But before the hostility can escalate, a coil impales through Ermac's neck. The coil head stuck out in front of his neck, as Ermac gasped for air, at the end of the coil head, two separate blades opened up, and stretched out to the exact width of Ermac's neck.

Suddenly, the coil is summoned back, and rips its way out of Ermac's neck, while the two blades sliced through, completely severing the head.

Ermac stood still.

Then, as a suddenly breeze came in, Ermac's severed head fell off its neck, and bounced and rolled over the floor. His body then fell to its knees, then onto its dead, where it lay there, motionless.

Sub-Zero and Sonya looked at the direction the coil came from.

The coil retracted into a man's palm, six feet tall, dressed in black and yellow.

A ninja, it seemed, at least from the view Sonya and Sub-Zero stood, as the figure stood between the shadows. He wore ninja garb, almost exactly like Sub-Zero's, but with an extra-demonic look and a yellow skull-mask. This ninja was dressed in yellow as opposed to blue, but wore the same black hood. And as

opposed to Sub-Zero's two blue eyes, this ninja had hollow, white sockets.

“What in the name of...”

"Scorpion!" Sub-Zero interrupted before Sonya could finish her sentence.

"Feel honoured Sub-Zero, that I saved your life just now. I will spare your life, for the moment. I can see you are not in good condition for another battle; we are one of a kind, you and me. If you are diminished, then I am diminished as well. But make no mistake, you're time is near."

Scorpion then turned around, and walked away, but as he did, his entire body began rippling, and suddenly, disappeared in a burst of yellow flames.

"What the hell just happened?" Sonya shockingly replied.

But before Sub-Zero could answer, the door burst opened.

"Sub! Sonya! What happened? We heard fighting!" Hydro burst in.

"We were attacked by Ermac." Sub-Zero responded helping Sonya up.

“Yeah, but Scorpion came to the rescue!” Sonya replied.

"Scorpion? I heard you mentioning him earlier, yet this Scorpion still seems unfamiliar to me." Hydro then said.

"It's an interesting story," said Sub-Zero “But unfortunately it's a long one too.” "Well, we're not

going anywhere, Sub." Smoke said, standing next to Hydro.

"We've got the time if you do." Sonya said, placing her hand on Sub-Zero's shoulder.

Sub-Zero sighed. He walked to the double bunk bed, and sat on the lower bunk. He buried his head in his hands, then looked at the four figures in front of him.

"It all started nine years ago," Sub-Zero began. "The Lin Kuei and the Shirai Ryu, who didn't possess such supernatural powers as ours. They rather focused on mastery of the Shuriken; hidden weapons thrown from the hand. They were the only living equals of our clan, and that was what sent us into a war.

"Where does Scorpion come in?" Sonya asked.

"I was just getting to that," the ice ninja said "From both of our clans, one member stood out above the rest of them; someone whose powers and fighting ability went above and beyond even the clan Grandmasters themselves. From our clan, a man known only as my brother... and from the Shirai Ryu, a man named Hanzo Hasashi, or, to his fellow assassins, the codename... Scorpion."

"This is getting good," Sonya whispered to Rain sitting next to her.

"You shush," said Sub-Zero, rising from the bed. "Now, let's get to the good part. Though all the battles fought by

our clan and the Shirai Ryu, the worst of them was between Scorpion and my brother. My brother and Scorpion faced and fought each other several times, with each bout ending in a stalemate. Both would walk away with their wounds, and vow that someday they would their battle once and for all."

"And it happened over and over again, it did. Until one fateful day, both my brother and Scorpion were sent on the same god-forsaken mission. Both Grandmasters of the our clans were approached by the same man, who asked that their best warriors be sent to retrieve an old map from the ancient temple in the middle of the Himalayan Mountains; somewhere around Mt. Everest, I'm not sure. Anyway, seeing as how Scorpion and my older brother were the best the clans had to offer, they were the ones sent.'

"What happened then?" asked Hydro.

"Scorpion reached the temple first, but it wasn't long until my brother made his to the same place, to the exact same room in witch Scorpion was standing.

"It was a furious battle, to say the least," Sub-Zero said "Both fighters exchanged some serious blows to their bodies, and even their most powerful special moves failed to help them win the battle. The fight raged throughout the entire temple for over an hour and a half. And it was in that very bout, that Scorpion began weakening, losing his

razor edge that he had worked so hard to get. And eventually, it happened."

"What happened?"

"Scorpion was defeated. He was so weak, while my brother stood triumphantly over him.

And there was Scorpion, on his knees, begging for mercy. But my cold-hearted brother, in all his assassin missions and fights with his sworn enemy, would show none. And the next thing anyone knew, my brother was holding Scorpion's head and spinal cord in his hand, with Scorpion's decapitated body lying on the floor, bleeding."

"Oh, disgusting... said Sonya, grimacing from the mental image.

"Sorry," Sub-Zero said, with a shrug. "I like to throw in that extra little titbit to see the look on people's faces. Now where was I? Oh, yes. And so, Scorpion went to the place of judgment for all murdered souls. He saw the portal of Heaven, but he was denied entrance. He died a dishonourable death, on his knees, begging for his life. So, he was sent to the Realm of Lost Souls, or the Netherrealm, as its real name is; a place where the evil souls of society are sent to suffer eternal damnation."

Well, Scorpion made a deal with the devil. A devil, to be more precise, for as you already know, there are several. Scorpion was given the opportunity to avenge his own death, by returning to Earth, and defeating my brother himself. Then and only then could his soul be at peace."

"So, willing to do anything to get his revenge on my brother, Scorpion accepted. He was given a new costume; a copy of my brother's, but with the exception of a cowardly yellow colour, as opposed to blue. And, with Scorpion's previous mastery of the Shuriken weapon techniques, he was given brand new powers; which, unfortunately, included his most deadly attack; the Scorpion Sting, or as everybody so eloquently put it, the snake thing coming out of his hand."

"Interesting story," said Hydro.

"Oh, it gets better," Sub-Zero said. "When Scorpion came back, he came back to a horror among horrors; not only had his entire clan been killed, but his family, his wife and only son, were murdered as well. Scorpion suspected my brother and the Lin Kuei, and that alone drove him insane, searching the earth for him. Scorpion eventually did find my brother, competing in the ultimate tournament of life and death; the perfect place to finish off his old enemy. Caught off guard by the return of the man my brother thought he killed years ago, my brother was defeated, and Scorpion returned to hell."

"But how can he be back now?" Hydro asked. "If you're brother was defeated, then Scorpion's soul should be at peace."

"Scorpion was duped. The devil he made the deal with never had any intention of setting his soul at peace. However, that wasn't how it ends. Sub-Zero came back, competing in a second tournament, the battlefield of another world entirely."

"That Sub-Zero was me, with the same powers and fighting abilities passed on to me by my older sibling, so Scorpion was easily mistake. He was promised that if he defeated me by his hand, then he would get what he desired so much. But he failed on several occasions, so Scorpion may never know if he will ever get what he wants."

"So that's the story," Sub-Zero said. "Any questions?"

"Yes, one." Said Sonya. "Why did Scorpion automatically think that your brother and the Lin Kuei were responsible for the murder of his family?"

"That's what he was told," Sub-Zero said "Ironically, by the very person who really was responsible."

"Ouch." Sonya replied.

"Guys, it's about time, the next match starts in a few minutes." Rain said, looking at the sun outside the window.

"Well, let's get going." Sub-Zero replied.

TO BE CONTINUED...



# MORTAL KOMBAT, PART 7

## CLASH OF THE CLANS BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

The ninjas gathered in front of the battlefield.

Onero made his way up a short flight of stairs, and sat in a large, metal chair at the end of the arena.

He then grinned and bellowed the two kombatants names out that will be participating in this match.

"SMOKE! You will have the honour to fight...

Then a figure walked out of the crowd of ninjas and stood in the arena, opposite of Smoke's. It was a ninja dressed in a complete black outfit, only revealing his white eyes.

"...NOOB SAIBOT!"

"Once more, Smoke, your path crosses that of Noob Saibot! I bear you no ill will, but I will likewise not be diverted from my purpose." Noob Saibot said, narrowing his eyes.

"You talk too much!" Smoke shouted.

Noob Saibot's fists tightened in anger, and his muscles tensed.

He yelled, running forward and jumping in the air, kicking at Smoke.

He dodged to one side as Noob Saibot landed on the ground. As he did, Smoke attacked with a kick to the face. Blocked. Noob Saibot kicked twice at Smoke. Blocked. Smoke kicked. Dodged. Smoke kicked twice. Blocked. Noob Saibot finally kicked Smoke in the face, sending him to the floor. Smoke rolled out of the way, before Noob Saibot could stomp him. He flipped to his feet. Smoke then whirled around and roundhouse-kicked Noob Saibot in the chest, sending him onto his back. Then as quickly as Noob Saibot landed on his back, he flipped to his feet again.

Noob Saibot yelled in rage then ran and jump-kicked Smoke sending him stumbling backwards. As Smoke braked, smoke began flowing out of his body, and that meant he was starting to use unbelievable speed. Smoke dashed forward and performed a roundhouse. Ducked. Smoke whirled around and performed a sweep kick. Noob Saibot performed a no-hands cartwheel and avoid it.

He then returned the sweep kick at him, Smoke jumped over Noob Saibot's sweep kick, and landing on his feet. Smoke attempted a double-spin kick. He flew over Noob Saibot's and landed on the other side of his body, He then

performed a backwards walkover, just as Noob Saibot got up, and hit him in the face with his foot. Noob Saibot stumbled backwards, and Smoke took the opportunity to perform a mid-air spin kick to the face. Noob Saibot spun through the air and landed on his stomach.

Noob Saibot got to his feet again, and ran and jump-kicked into the air, but as he did, his entire body mysteriously distorted... and disappeared.

Smoke stared in disbelief, as his opponent had vanished from site.

Suddenly, Smoke got kicked stomach, then in the face. He was knocked to the floor. And looked up and saw Noob Saibot standing behind the spot he was just moments ago.

"Teleportation..." Smoke groaned in pain.

"I am a creature of the shadows, I draw my strength from the darkness." Noob Saibot replied.

"Very cool. Personally. . . I draw my strength from a jelly doughnut and a cup of coffee." Smoke said sarcastically.

Smoke tried to get up and attack him, but Noob Saibot quickly kicked up his foot and hit him in the face. He rolled onto his back, and tried to sweep him up, but Noob Saibot dodged it and kicked him in the stomach. Noob Saibot then attacked with a kick to the face and chest, while Smoke tried his best to block and get up. Finally, he kicked up and hit Noob Saibot in the stomach, sending him stumbling backwards.

Smoke wearily got to his feet, but soon fell onto one knee.

Noob Saibot, almost unaffected by Smoke's quick retaliation, walked forward, stood triumphantly over Smoke, and then mercilessly delivered an uppercut to the face. Smoke flew several feet in the air, and landed on his back.

Noob Saibot looked at Onero to see if he was pleased.

"Excellent!" Onero was very happy about this.

"FINISH HIM!" Onero shouted

"NOOOO"! Sub-Zero screamed.

Noob Saibot looked back down at Smoke.

"Time to die!"

But all of a sudden a spear appeared from Smoke's hand and aimed at Noob Saibot's head. Noob Saibot flipped out of the way. Smoke disappeared from the ground and reappeared behind Noob Saibot. He then grabbed his body and quickly German-Suplexed him. Noob Saibot got back up, but shaken up. Smoke's body started to smoke up, as he did a brutal combo of punches and kicks on Noob Saibot. Noob Saibot blocked the last punch and kicked him in his groin.

Onero liked it and laughed upon it.

Noob Saibot then did a brutal combo of his own. What he failed to realize was that a spear could come at any

time. Smoke's spear finally came out from its hand, and it went through Noob Saibot's leg.

"FINISH HIM!" Onero hollered.

Smoke did a simple kick to the face.

"Smoke!" Onero hollered. "That is unacceptable! The match is not over! Round 2, FIGHT!"

Smoke was out of breath and badly wounded from the first round. Noob Saibot was lying on the ground, missing a whole leg. Smoke knew he would bleed to death; he has about 10 minutes to live at most. So, he kneeled down next to the body, and snapped Noob Saibot's neck. Noob Saibot's entire body went limp.

"Smoke!" Onero was not very happy. "You make me sick! This was a death match, and you made it look like some dramatic death scene! Get the hell out of the arena!"

As Smoke walked out of the arena, the guards took Noob Saibot's body away along with his leg.

"These, former Lin Kuei members are dangerous adversaries. They don't die easy!" Ja'kaar said, banging his fist on the table.

"You worry too much. Our new and improved prototypes will deal with them." Onero grinned.

"You feel sure of yourself that Sektor and Cyrax will win against Sub-Zero and his three companions. Do you think they'll win?" Ja'kaar asked.

"In a fair fight, who knows? Onero replied. "Sektor! Cyrax! Show our friend, what new surprises you got in stored."

Just then six ninja assassins attacked the two-cyber units.

With that statement, a compartment in Sektor's chest opened and a trident fired out from it. The trident shot into the face of one ninja and the tip came out the back of the head. As the trident was on a rope, Sektor was able to retract it. Two ninjas rushed at Cyrax. He side-kicked one while back-elbowing the other across the jaw, Relocating it. The other ninja looked up and saw the red armour of Sektor in front of him. He lifted the man by the neck with one hand. < INITIATING PRIMARY COMMAND SET....EXECUTE. > Sektor's chest compartment opened up to reveal the tip of a missile. As Sektor launched it, the tip lodged itself in the man's abdomen. Upon releasing the man's neck, the force of the missile's turbine caused the man to lift in the air and soar to two hundred feet. Even though there had been no changed in the appearance of Sektor's face, the doomed man could have sworn that he was smiling. As the missile detonated, it no longer mattered. < TARGET ELIMINATED. > The fourth one did not seem daunted by how quickly the cyber units disposed of his allies. He began his attack by attempting to give Cyrax a

roundhouse to the faceplate. Cyrax countered by falling to the ground and sweeping the man's legs out from beneath him. Cyrax saw number five come at him. The compartment in Cyrax's chest opened. A bright green stream of microscopic flesh-eating robots flew towards him. Eating through his flesh in a matter of seconds. Cyrax saw number four come to him. He gave the man a quick punch to the stomach and picked him up by the back of the neck. Cyrax then slammed the man face first into the ground. The last ninja yelled and ran at Sektor and swung his fist at him. Sektor caught the man's arm and twisted it behind him. With a swift jerk upward, the man's shoulder dislocated. He made an agonized sound and fell to the ground. Sektor showed no remorse.

"I'm utterly impressed, Onero." Ja'kaar responded.

"Sektor! Cyrax! You're mission. Destroy Sub-Zero and whoever is seen at his side. I will not tolerate failure!" Onero shouted.

"Smoke, are you all right?" Sub-Zero questioned.

"I'm far from all right. That Noob Saibot sure packs a punch." Smoke replied.

"Oh my god! What happened?" Sonya yelled running at Smoke's aid,

"Smoke has got one punch too many." Hydro said sarcastically.

"Rest easy, Smoke. Breath slow and deep. That's it . . . your breath seems to be normalizing." Sub-Zero replied.

Suddenly the wall behind the warriors exploded. As the smoke faded the warriors could tell two figures was standing between the rubble.

< ESTIMATED TIME TO SECURING MISSION  
OBJECTIVE FIFTEEN SECONDS >

"Sonya! You stay and aid Smoke! Hydro, you and Rain take Sektor. I'll take Cyrax!" Sub-Zero shouted.

Cyrax teleported behind Sub-Zero and punched him in the back of the head. Sub-Zero turned around to face Cyrax. He went for a forward jab, which Cyrax avoided by ducking and sweeping out Sub-Zero's legs from under him. Sub-Zero flipped back up and faked a cross-body punch while delivering a roundhouse to the face. Cyrax's head turned with the blow, but he did not stagger. Meanwhile, Rain shot a ball of water out of his hand and stopped Sektor before he could fire a missile. Rain controlled the body of the robot and Hydro took the opportunity to roundhouse him. Sektor spun around from the blow.

Sub-Zero and Cyrax were still ducking it out. Cyrax delivered a left backhand to the face of Sub-Zero that followed with an uppercut. Sub-Zero was sent flying over the room.

"This may prove to be a challenge than I originally figured." Sub-Zero said to himself.



Sub-Zero looked behind him to see Hydro and Rain engaging Sektor. Sektor flipped to his feet and with one chop to the trachea, Hydro was down. No sooner had Hydro gotten to his feet, then did Sektor kick him in the face. Hydro fell onto his back again. Rain stormed at Sektor. Sektor gave him two elbows to the head, a backhand across the face, a knee to the gut, a sidekick to the neck, and a roundhouse to the left temple of his skull. Rain was sent flying back. Hydro quickly flipped back onto his feet. Sektor kicked several times, forcing Hydro stumbling backwards.

Meanwhile. Sub-Zero did a triple back flip just in time to avoid two pair of grenades. He was forced to flip toward Cyrax to avoid the explosion. Cyrax grabbed Sub-Zero's head and put it into his knee. Cyrax then hit Sub-Zero with a sidekick. Sub-Zero was knocked back once again.

Meanwhile. The more Sektor continued his onslaught, the more Hydro was knocked away from him. Sektor delivered several powerful kicks, which only helped in rendering Hydro weaker and weaker. He attempted retaliation any chance he got, but Sektor dodged and returned with a painful attack.

Finally, Sektor kicked twice to the side, once in the chest and face, twice to the stomach, another to the chest, followed by a roundhouse to the face. Hydro stumbled backwards, and almost fell onto his back from fatigue. Sektor then jumped, spun around, and performed a powerful mid-air spin kick, hitting Hydro

in the face, and sending him spinning like a top off his feet and onto his stomach.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the room. Sub-Zero ran at Cyrax and hit him with three jabs and a right hook. This time, Cyrax staggered a little, but that was all. Cyrax kicked Sub-Zero in the knee and picked him up over his head. Sub-Zero felt that Cyrax was trying to tear him in half. Smoke suddenly flew in from the side, and jump-kicked Cyrax in the face, releasing Sub-Zero from the blow. < DAMAGE SUSTAINED TO APPENDAGES. . . ASSAULT OUTSIDE SCENRIO PARAMETERS >

Hydro tried getting back up, but the force of Sektor's attacks left him severely weakened, while the prototype stood triumphantly over him.

< PREPARING SECONDARY COMMAND SET... EXECUTE. >

As Sektor was about to get ready for the kill. Rain ran and jumped into the air, his foot headed for Sektor's head, and kicked Sektor. Though Sektor could not actually feel it in the true sense of the word, he had sensors letting him know what happened. Sektor threw back an elbow without turning around, knocking Rain down.

< UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO DEFENSE PERIMETER. EX-- >

"Ex, anything just sounds downright unfriendly." Smoke said jokingly.

Smoke then hit Cyrax with a knee to the gut and an uppercut to the chin. As Cyrax went reeling backwards, Smoke disappeared and reappeared behind Cyrax and front-kicked him in the back of the head.

As Cyrax stood up and moved to Smoke, the soulless machine was cut off by a spinning heel kick to the faceplate by Sub-Zero. Sub-Zero followed with a backhand to the side of Cyrax's head. While Cyrax was off balance, Smoke took his head in his hands. "You're going down now, in shiny little pieces!" Smoke shouted. With one quick twist, Cyrax lost the power to move.

Meanwhile Sektor was about to make his kill.

< COMPILING PROTOTYPE BETA REGISTERING  
ATTACK PARAMETERS... EXECUTE... >

Suddenly Sub-Zero leapt forward with a somersault in mid-air into a kick to the bridge of Sektor's nose. Sektor was sent falling backwards.

Hydro got back onto his feet and started to walk towards Sektor, but Smoke stopped him. "Let us handle him a while," Smoke said. "You've been through enough for now."

< AS ANTICIPATED MORTAL THREAT TO  
DESIGNATE: SUB-ZERO AND SMOKE, LEAVING  
PRIMARY TARGET UNPROTECTED. >

Sektor wearily got to his feet, and glared at the two ninjas. He could tell the anger of the two, through his media-scan.

SUBJECT: SUB-ZERO AND SMOKE  
BLOOD PRESSURE RISING. HEART BEAT  
ABNORMAL.

Sektor immediately took control and threw a missile at Sub-Zero. Sub-Zero back flipped and created one of his clones. The missile struck the clone and exploded. Sub-Zero was down and Sektor had the advantage. He then started to kick him ten times. Smoke came rushing at Sektor; Sektor sensed Smoke's presence and released a spear from the palm of his hand. Smoke flipped out of the way. That gave Sub-Zero the chance to come back and he immediately did. Using his slide, he knocked Sektor down. He then prepared to freeze him. Using his powers passed on by his sibling, he threw a ball of ice in Sektor's face. Sektor's whole body started to freeze and now he was nothing but ice.

Sub-Zero stood up straight, admiring his handiwork; he then relaxed his whole body and walked to aid his wounded friends.

"Phew! I've got to say that's one of my toughest battles I had in years." Smoke said standing up.

"You mean, the second toughest, Noob Saibot almost killed you back there." Hydro said, rubbing his hand.

"Rain, are you all right? Sektor gave you a nasty hit a few minutes ago." Sonya said, helping Rain up.

Suddenly, a crackling sound was heard and the five figures whirled around and faced Sektor's frozen body, and suddenly the ice shattered.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 8

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

The five covered their heads as shards of crystallized ice flew all around. Sektor climbed to his feet and looked at the figures opposing him.

< YOUR DEFIANCE IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE,  
HUMANS! I AM CONVERSANT  
IN BOTH THE EXTENTS OF YOUR POWERS AND  
YOUR KOMBAT ABILITIES— I CAN EXECUTE  
ANY OF THREE THOUSAND SCENARIOS, WHICH  
WILL RESULT IN YOUR DEFEAT. >

Sektor's eyes glowed bright red.

Sektor bolted forward the first ten feet, and jumped into the air, and literally flew forward, with his foot outstretched in a long flying, shooting towards Sub-Zero like a silver bullet.

Sub-Zero moved just in time to dodge the attack, and soon as Sektor landed, they both turned back towards each other. Immediately, Sektor went into a rapid series of punches, kicks, flips and spins, moving like lightning through the air. Sub-Zero blocked every attack, but was forced further and further backwards with each one.

Sektor stood where he sent a machine gun- like series of punches at Sub-Zero's body. Again, Sub-Zero blocked each one. Finally, after the twentieth punch, Sektor stopped the punches, whirled around and delivered a roundhouse to the face. And right afterward, he continued spinning, jumped into the air, shot out his foot, and performed a massive mid-air spin kick. Both hit Sub-Zero right in the face.

Sub-Zero turned his head, and saw Hydro step forward. He pulled a sword from his sheath, and tossed it to Sub-Zero. Sub-Zero saw it flying at him, reached out his hand and caught it in mid-air. He then turned around, facing Sektor again. Sub-Zero then swiped and struck the hand of Sektor with it, freezing the robot's hand. The sword cut through Sektor's hand as he swiped, causing Sektor's brittle hand to fall off and shatter on the floor.

<DAMAGE SUSTAINED TO APPENDAGES. . .  
ASSAULT OUTSIDE SCENARIO PARAMETERS>

Sub-Zero clubbed Sektor with the sword on the knees, forcing even more of his cold energy through the sword, suddenly from the area in which the sword was struck, a thick sheet of ice slowly spread out and covered Sektor's body. Sektor was frozen in the place he stood, frozen solid. Sub-Zero then did a roundhouse at Sektor's frozen body. Shattering ice shards all over the room.

The final fight of the day was to take place in the Great Hall, where a typical boxing-like fighting ring awaits the competitors. Once used by prince Goro and his

unfortunate opponent Art Lean. There is nothing else typical about the fight that is to occur within the thick ropes. The kombatants files in, as Onero watches from the podium.

"I pray this is the last match for the day." Sub-Zero said rubbing his wrist.

"I hope so too, friend. Hydro replied. "The number of matches is originally six, but seeing as Onero sent assassins to annihilate us we had more than eight today."

"Witch all of them met a chilly end." Smoke said sarcastically.

"Hydro, you shall have the honour to finish the last match of the day, unless it finishes you first." Onero smiled, narrowing his eyes on Hydro. "Hydro, you will face Reptile. Step in the arena! Reptile! Step in the arena! And remember perfection is the key."

They both step in the fighting ring. Reptile appraises his opponent with little emotion, and waits for Onero to give the signal to begin kombat He expects an easy match.

"FIGHT" A voice shouted.

Hydro began with a stylish bow to his opponent. Reptile responded with a bow of his own, then they both rose and started circling around one another, both in fighting stances. From the crowd came various scattered cheers; some for Reptile, most for Hydro. Neither fighter looked away from the others eyes.



Finally, it began.

With a mighty yell, Reptile rushed forward and attacked; the two fighters went at it, in a massive punching match. Each fighter would strike at each other, but the other would instantly block and attack. It went back and forth for no more than several seconds however, when Reptile broke the lock and smashed the back of his fist across Hydro's face. Hydro stumbled backwards, and shook off the blow, and then the two faced each other again.

This time Hydro attacked with a spinning kick to the face. Reptile took the blow, but spun around and kicked Hydro in the head in succession. Hydro took the blow as well, but spun around as well and thrust out his face, striking Reptile painfully in the stomach.

Reptile bent over in pain, while Hydro instantly followed the stomach punch with an uppercut. Reptile stumbled backwards and shook off the blow, while Hydro again tried to attack with a backhand punch. Reptile blocked and sent two punches at his opponent. Blocked. Hydro returned with three quick punches. Blocked.

Reptile whirled around and performed a quick roundhouse kick. Ducked. Reptile continued through the kick and punched at Hydro again. Hydro grabbed his arm, and twisted it around in an attempt to throw Reptile onto his back. However, as he was flipped forward, Reptile sent his feet ahead of him and landed safely on his feet. As soon as he touched down, he spun

around and twisted around Hydro's arm, sending him flipping onto his back. Hydro tried to get up, but after the surprise throw; Reptile knelt down and smashed his elbow deep into Hydro's stomach. Hydro let out a pained yell as his body jumped from the blow. Reptile backed away and regained his fighting stance, giving Hydro the opportunity to get up. Unlike his two comrades Viper and Komodai, Reptile fought with honour. Hydro slowly got up, moaning in pain, clutching his chest, huffing and puffing. He stared angrily at Reptile, who stared back with a calm expression.

The three ninja spectators were sickened as they saw Hydro's attempts of defending himself against the zatteranian leader.

Suddenly, Reptile's expression changed. He narrowed his eyes at Hydro and rips off his mask to reveal a horrid monster.

"I see how you got your name, Reptile and what a fitting name it is for such a gnome-like creature." Hydro responded at the site.

"Just watch what this gnome can do." Reptile hissed.

"After this little demonstration, maybe in the Afterlife you'll learn . . . to hold your tongue!"

With that remark, a giant tongue then came from his mouth and wraps around Hydro's neck, chocking him.

Realizing he was losing a grip on life. Hydro knew his only chance of getting free is to reach one of his swords.

He finally managed to reach a sword placed on his back, and tossed it high into the air. While it was airborne, Hydro took one of his hidden daggers and jabbed it into Reptile's tongue. Reptile gave an inhuman scream as blood came gushing out of his tongue.

Meanwhile, the samurai sword fell from the sky just then, and Hydro caught it, whirled around, and thrust the still sharp end of his weapon forward.

Reptile's eyes shot wide open, his breath stopped. He looked down, and saw the blade of Hydro's sword wedged deep into his torso.

Hydro drew back his sword, taking the blade from Reptile's body. The wound was fresh, and Reptile felt his strength leaving him, for he then fell to his knees. Hydro then twirled the sword around, made a full turn, and swiped at Reptile's head. The next thing anyone knew, Reptile's head rolled across the ring.

The crowd's eyes widened in astonishment at the site.

As night fell. The four Lin Kuei's went to their chamber.

"That was one bad match after another and an even worse day." Smoke said, yawning under his mask.

"We almost though we lost you for the moment when Reptile strangled you back there." Rain replied.

"Well, luckily the Elder Gods were at my side." Hydro responded.

"Amen to that." Smoke replied.

"You can vanquish any adversary, no matter how bizarre their powers may seem." Aman's voice said.

The four ninjas spun around quickly.

And at the spot the voice came from, stood a man.

Seven feet tall, dressed in a white suite, with two blue straps up his chest and down his back, with a blue belt. On both arms, he wore a yellow-on-black circle; in which was a Chinese symbol in which Smoke knew resembled the Temple of the Order of Light. He also wore black arm and shin guards, and over his head of silver hair, a wide, cone-shaped straw hat. What was probably his most striking characteristic was the fact that his eyes were glowing white spaces.

"... Or in Reptile's case, how bizarre they look." Rayden said, followed by a snigger.

"Jeesh! Rayden! Do you want to give us a heart attack?" Smoke responded.

"Sometimes I wonder whose side you're on."

"You, Smoke may well be on the verge of a heart attack." Rayden replied.

"But I remind you that the victory's you enjoyed over the Outworld warriors will not aid you in the challenge that awaits you." Rayden warns.

"Oh, C'mon. The last time we fought Onero, he was as helpless as a new-born kitten just as you are." Smoke laughed.

"Would you like to test that theory?" Rayden asked.

"Gladly! Thunder God." Smoke replied.

With that, Rayden jumped backwards and did a cartwheel, and landed facing Hydro and Rain. Rayden then threw his body backwards and started a series of rapid back handsprings, the first of which kicked Smoke in the face sending him to the ground and making him roll onto his stomach. Rayden continued his backward acrobatics; until he landed on his feet and jumped into a back flip, then landed on his feet first and knelt to the floor. He then got up and walked towards Smoke, still on the ground. The thunder god chuckled, and knelt down over Smoke, placing his back on Smoke's neck for support.

"Well?" Rayden said expecting a reply.

"Okay! Okay! You win, now kindly get off me." Smoke replied.

"How can you possibly beat Onero when I alone am too much for you?" Rayden asked.

"I'll get over it." Smoke responded.

Several of the guards backed away as the rock shattered. Right after Ja'kaar drove his fist into it. The pieces fell to his feet, and as Ja'kaar walked away from the wall, everyone could see a massive hole where the punch had landed. Then he walked back towards his throne and took a seat. His head went back into the shadows they hid in, leaving only his enraged white eyes visible, staring out with an inner flame that could scare the living daylights out of any normal man.

Needless to say, everyone kept their distance, even his fellow shadow priests. All was silent except for the constant in and out motion of his heavy breathing.

The only one who dared approach him was Onero.

Onero approached Ja'kaar from the side. He finally made it within four feet of Ja'kaar's constantly tightening fist. He was about to open his mouth and say something, when suddenly:

"Don't even start with me, Onero." Ja'kaar's hissing voice said.

"Don't worry about..."

"Damn it, Onero, I'm not in the mood, you're starting to sound like a broken record, don't worry, don't worry and the more you say it, the more there

is to worry about!" Ja'kaar yelled, leaning back.

"Leave!"

"But...

"LEAVE!!!" He roared, making everyone back off.

"Everyone, out of here, NOW!"

Everyone did as he ordered, One by one, the guards exited out different doors. The shadow priests vanished in thin air.

Ja'kaar leaned forward again, let out a yell, and buried his head in his hands. As he came into the light again, the sweat pouring down his face was fully visible.

He then turned his back, and stood next to the dining table, and slammed his hands on it in frustration. He let his head down so that he was staring at his feet, and took several deep breaths and he let his anger out.

As he did, Onero slowly approached him from behind.

Ja'kaar could sense he was approached.

"I thought I told you to..."

"Ja'kaar, if you mind... "Onero tried to finish his sentence.

"Mind?! Yes, I mind that we are losing this tournament, that we are sacrificing our best warriors, that if we fail, Shao Kahn will banish us to the Cobalt Mines or

Netherealm. Yes, Onero, I mind! Now what part of leave don't you understand?!"

"But if you keep acting like this, you'll probably die of stress. Your fear is turning to anger, and you're venting at everyone around you. You probably just scared those guards halfway back to toilet training. What better way to kill Sub-Zero and his friends, then with his older sibling." Onero smiled enviously.

"Go, ahead, Onero you have my intention." Ja'kaar replied.

"The right way to kill an assassin is to find an even stronger and greater assassin and what better way to kill Sub-Zero then with his own blood." Onero explained.

"But, Onero there's one error in your plan. The original Sub-Zero has been missing since the 10<sup>th</sup> Mortal Kombat tournament." Ja'kaar responded.

"Shang Tsung keeps all his souls from previously defeated champions, we only need to ask him." Onero replied.

"And what makes you think Shang Tsung will lend us Sub-Zero's brother's soul?" Ja'kaar asked.

"Leave that to me." Was all Onero replied.

Meanwhile, Sub-Zero was taking a walk at the beachside, when suddenly he heard breathing behind him.



Sub-Zero whirled around and relaxed as he saw who it was. He smiled slightly beneath his mask as he saw the woman standing behind him; dressed in skin-tight, white-on-green outfit, her hair tied into a ponytail behind her head.

"Sonya!"

"Sorry if I startled you, Subsy. But I need to tell you something." Sonya smiled.

"No, it's not you, it's just that I was expecting someone who would try to carve me up." Sub-Zero responded.

Sonya walked towards Sub-Zero, and took hold of his right hand, which made him feel calm and safe.

"Now, what is it you were so anxious to tell me about?" Sub-Zero asked.

Sonya paused for a little while and finally replied.

"I'm going to have a baby." Sonya replied.

Sub-Zero froze as he heard the remark.

"Relax, you're not the guilty party." Sonya snapped.

Sub-Zero gave a sigh of relief.

"Does the father know?" Sub-Zero questioned.

"No." Sonya replied.

"Shouldn't you tell him?"

She dropped her head towards the ground, closed her eyes, and replied.

"He's dead, he was killed by Shao Kahn, when he invaded Earth Realm and begun his six-day-long merger."

"I'm sorry, Sonya. I know how you feel." Sub-Zero looked at Sonya.

"I'm scared, Subsy. I lost many people I cared about. Wexler, Johnny and now I'm afraid I'm going to lose you too." "I don't die that easy, Sonya." Sub-Zero said and then asked. "How long pregnant are

"Two months is my guess." "You told anyone else?"

"No."

"Then why me?"

Sonya looked deep into Sub-Zero's eyes.

"I want you to be the father of my baby."

Sub-Zero let go of Sonya's hand. "Please say, you accept my offer."

"With all my hart, no."

"I understand."

"Sonya, I . . ."

Sonya lifted her index finger and placed it on his mask to shush him.

"I understand."

Sonya kneeled forward and kissed him on the cheek. She then walked away.

"What the hell is wrong with you?!" A voice came behind Sub-Zero.

Sub-Zero recognizing the voice didn't even turned around.

"Women like her aren't easy to find in a million years." The voice said.

"Think of myself as an ethical man, Rayden. We both come from different worlds and I don't want to see her become a target for assassination." Sub-Zero responded.

"She knows how to defend herself, Sub-Zero." Rayden snapped.

"Outworlders don't fall in love with Earth-Realms." Sub-Zero sighed.

"Nonsense, just look at Kitana and Liu Kang, they come from different realms and then theirs Jax and Ruby...,"

Rayden was about to get on Sub-Zero's temper and he lifted a hand to shush him.

Rayden let out a deep sigh and tried again to knock some sense into him.

"Sonya Blade isn't a case file. She's a marvellous woman, alive and radiant. I understand that she, like yourself, was a victim of incredible cruelty. You two have witnessed horrors beyond imagining, she does not want to be alone in this world."

"So, if Sonya is my last chance of happiness... "

"You would be a fool to let her slip away."

A few minutes later, Sub-Zero went to his chamber. The other three were asked by Rayden to sleep in another room, only Sonya and Sub-Zero were sharing the chamber.

Sonya was sitting all alone in the dark when suddenly the door opened and a figure appeared behind it.

Then the figure stepped out from the shadows that surround him.

. . . Subsy?" Sonya said in a startled voice. . . . For a moment I thought...

"Sssh." Was his reply.

"I just want you to know, I'm here whenever you need me."

"Oh, Subsy."

Please, don't call me that. Not tonight.

And that very night... well....let's just say, the next morning, they both woke up with a smile on their faces.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 9

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

That morning, the powerful silhouette Sub-Zero could be seen against the awesome golden sunrise as it moved into the 8:00 position, practicing his every known martial arts maneuver with an expert finesse that few of the Lin Kuei could ever hope to use to their advantage.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the island. Smoke practiced his moves in a quicker fashion; every split second, a punch would erupt from his arms, and a kick would shoot out from his feet. He was fast and wasn't about to be stopped now.

The other two masters of kombat practiced their kicks and blows as well.

Sub-Zero finally stopped. He'd been training for the last one hour and thirty minutes. He stood straight up with his feet together and stared into the rising sun. He then rest his arms at his sides, clenching his hands in fists.

Sub-Zero finally rested his whole body and stared out to sea. Sonya came standing beside

"A beautiful sight, though," she replied, "isn't it."

Sub-Zero turned to look at her, and she leaned in closer to whisper in his ear.

"Subsy...I just want you to know... last night meant a lot to me," she said. "Thank you for letting me...."

He placed his hand over hers, then reached over and kissed her on the lips. She then left him and walked towards the mountain, while he watched her leave. When she was about 15 feet away, she turned and smiled at him, then continued on her way.

Smoke then popped in right behind Sub-Zero in a fog of smoke.

"Well?" He replied.

"Well, did you do it or not?"

"Did what?"

"Did you do the proverbial wild thing with her last night?"

Sub-Zero simply replied, with an obvious, yet still slight smirk. "Don't take this the wrong way, Smoke, but...it's really none of your god damn business."

He then walked away, leaving Smoke behind.

"What the hell is this!?! I never get any of the juicy news around here!" Smoke yelled.

The young warrior sat in the darkness of his chamber atop a stone platform, legs crossed, arms at his sides, eyes closed, concentrating hard on the images flowing through his mind.

Around him, various candles and torches were lit, meagrely illuminating the temple surrounding him in fiery, flickering yellow light. On either side of him, there stood two tall marble pillars holding up the ceiling, with two more opposite end of the room. With the candles and torches of the room, several small holes in the ceiling and walls let thin streams of sunlight spill onto the floor, lighting up the room a little more. Even so, the man's face, along with half his body, was concealed in shadows.

The chants immediately ceased. He lifted his head and opened his eyes, looking straight forward. He rose to his feet, and walked into the middle of the room, out of the shadows.

His full, muscular physique stood approximately six and a half feet tall, dressed in a complete black ninja outfit. His unmoving face, covered in a black mask, stared unblinking into the space before him, his grey eyes half-closed.

His muscles tightened. He breathed increased, his chest heaving up and down, up and down; up and down with each deep breathe.

He must be prepared, for today is his day to prove and restore the honour of his clan. Though he had taken on



a few fighters in his lifetime, he knew he is evenly matched on this island of the supernatural.

This was what Dusk knew.

The tournament grounds come alive with ninja competitors warming up for their events.

Monks shuffle around silently, leading each participant to his match.

Onero oversees the proceedings with supreme confidence, praising the winners on their victories.

As Sub-Zero undressed out of his civvies and into his blue ninja outfit, he started out of his chamber to meet his other three allies at the next match, But to find him in a forest full of trees. As he stood in place admiring the forest, he heard someone calling out his name. Voices came from all around the forest calling at him until the voices suddenly stopped.

Suddenly, the sound of something sizzling caught Sub-Zero's attention, and he looked away from the sky and towards the ground several meters in front of him.

There, racing on the ground, were two bright, thick trails of burning flames, crisscrossing over each other as they made their way in Sub-Zero's direction. Another sound caught his attention, and he looked to the sky above. On several of the trees, two more flaming fire trails racing in his direction, when they suddenly stopped, and changed direction, heading straight downwards, though there was nothing they were actually clinging to.

The two pairs of fire met at the same spot; about twenty feet beyond the point in which Sub-Zero stood. As the fire met, there came a bright blast of light, and, as it dissolved, a figure was made out. The figure then stepped forward. A ninja in black and yellow, with a skull shaped mask over his face. Sub-Zero looked at the figure in terror.

"SCORPION!"

"You know, if I had a nickel for every time I heard you say that, I would be one rich corpse." Scorpion responded.

The dead ninja narrowed his eyes, and yelled out in a loud, echoing, demonically deep voice:

"GET OVER HERE!"

Scorpion then thrust his hand forward, releasing a dragon-headed metal coil that flew directly at Sub-Zero. Sub-Zero dodged to the side as the dragonhead flew past him, and smashed into a tree behind him.

As Sub-Zero got wearily up from dodging the attack, the coil retracted back into Scorpion's hand, leaving the dragonhead in the tree.

"The game rules have changed, Sub-Zero!" Scorpion yelled. "Now turn around and meet a guest that will be joining us!"

Sub-Zero looked behind him to see a rope hanging from one of the trees, and hanging from it was Sonya Blade,

bound by her hands and feet, and around her arms and legs. "Sonya!" Sub-Zero cried.

Sonya wearily looked up. "Subsy...."

Sub-Zero began walking forward, when suddenly; a familiar sound filled the air. Two of the snake coils slithered around her body, and wrapped themselves around her. One tied itself around her neck and head.

The same long, metal coil, tipped with the dragonhead, peeped out, and floated into view. It turned its head towards Sub-Zero, and hissed wildly.

"I wouldn't do that if I were you." Scorpion replied. "Here's the bargain, Sub-Zero! Your life in exchange for hers."

"I will rip your head off if you hurt her!" Sub-Zero yelled.

Scorpion narrowed his eyes, and only replied with an evil chuckle, then said, "Been there, done that."

"I'm not going to repeat myself again, Scorpion!" Sub-Zero said. "Let her go, NOW!"

"Why, I think you got a crush on the little bitch! That minx! That cheap slut! She's stolen your heart and I did so want it for myself" Scorpion's voice intervened.

He suddenly lifted his arm higher, and the metal coil wrapped around Sonya suddenly tightened and pulled her down to the ground, onto his level. The coil retracted into Scorpion's hand and so did the other as Sonya landed on the ground, Scorpion have a hold of her as he pulled her closer. He then grabbed Sonya by her hair, and pulled her head backwards. Sonya grunted in pain.

Suddenly, Scorpion and his hostage began rippling as if made of water, as did Sub-Zero.

"What are you doing?" Sub-Zero asked in panic.

Scorpion didn't reply. Then, suddenly the rippling stopped, and all that was left were the trees. Not even the footprints of Scorpion and Sub-Zero were seen, for the wind made by this teleportation brushed them away in the sand on the ground.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 10

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

Skeletons, skulls and previously used weapons laid scattered on a wasteland. This wasteland was for some were their final battle had taken place. This is Scorpion's lair.

The skeletons began to ripple, as if it were made of water. The ripple grew, and suddenly it stopped growing and something was standing where the ripple grew and shrank again.

Sub-Zero cautiously looked around the place of death.

Suddenly, to the sound of rapidly approaching footsteps made Sub-Zero whirl his head around. Nothing. But as he looked back, he saw a figure right in front of him.

"Welcome!" Scorpion said and attempted an overhead chop to floor him. But before the hit landed, Sub-Zero shot up his arm in defence and blocked the hit.

Scorpion then made his assault. As if with fire running through his veins, Scorpion made a right hook, followed by a left, then continued into a spin and smashed the back of his against Sub-Zero's face. As Scorpion continued

spinning, he performed a double roundhouse, then continued spinning, jumping into the air, and shifted his body into a powerful mid-air spin kick. However, Sub-Zero ducked the attack, and as soon as Scorpion landed on the ground again, made a kick at him. Scorpion blocked the kick and held his leg, smashed his other fist into the side of Sub-Zero's knee, hit him across the face, then curled his arm, and, with a mighty yell, shot out his arm and sent him flying backwards with a superhuman punch.

When Sub-Zero regained his senses, he found himself lying on the ground with a splitting headache. As he opened his eyes, he could see Scorpion standing before him, at least 25 feet away.

Sub-Zero slowly rose to his feet, as Scorpion rushed forward, jumped into the air, and performed a stylish double-footed spinning kick, aimed at Sub-Zero's head. Sub-Zero fortunately dodged the attack, and kept up his defence, even as Scorpion landed and started attacking again. He punched several more times. Sub-Zero blocked all but the last one, which he ducked under and dodged to the side as it went by him. However, as soon as Scorpion finished the punch, he whipped out his leg, and shot his foot into Sub-Zero's ribs.

The impacts sent Sub-Zero onto his back again. He got back up and faced Scorpion again.

Scorpion moved backwards, performing several stylish spinning kicks, all of which Sub-Zero ducked and dodged. Finally, they stopped in a certain area, and Scorpion made

another roundhouse, this time kicking Sub-Zero on the other side of his torso. He then whirled around in the other direction and smashed the back of his fist across Sub-Zero's face. This sent Sub-Zero flipping over, landing on his back.

"Pathetic!" Scorpion taunted. "I'm going to enjoy ripping you apart!"

Suddenly, a pair of legs grabbed Scorpion by the head and pinned him down.

"You leave him alone!" Sonya yelled.

"C'mon give me a break" Scorpion replied.

Sonya obliges, deftly breaking his neck and a snapping sound was heard.

After Scorpion's body went limp, Sonya ran to aid Sub-Zero.

"Subsy! Are you all right?"

Sub-Zero slowly got back onto his feet. He wobbled a little, but Sonya helped him stabilize.

"Where's Scorpion?" Sub-Zero asked.

"Oh, him, he's dead, I broke his neck." Sonya replied.

"You?" Sub-Zero couldn't help but be amazed.

Sonya cracked a smile on her pretty face. But as Sonya and Sub-Zero turned around to look at the spot where

Sonya killed Scorpion, Sonya's smile quickly faded. Scorpion was gone where he laid a few moments ago.

"My God, where is he?" Sonya's eyes widened. "Where's Scorpion?"

Suddenly, Sonya was knocked to the ground. Sub-Zero whirled around to locate her attacker, only to get kicked in the face. He fell to the ground, and looked up and saw Scorpion laughing hysterically, and then he finally replied.

"You fools! I'm already dead!" Scorpion said, relocating his neck.

"That wasn't much of a challenge! I expected more sport from you, Sub-Zero, prepare to die!"

As Scorpion spoke, he failed to notice Sub-Zero picking up a skull on the ground.

"Feel the STING... of the SCORPION!" the dead ninja replied, cocking his arm back, ready to strike.

With that remark, Sub-Zero hurled the skull at Scorpion.

Scorpion blocked as the skull hit him.

Sub-Zero quickly kicked out his foot and hit Scorpion painfully in the stomach and stumbled backwards. As soon as Scorpion recovered, Sub-Zero immediately whirled around and upper-cutted him in the face. Scorpion stumbled backwards as Sub-Zero planted



several more punches to Scorpion's face. Finally, Sub-Zero threw one last punch, but Scorpion grabbed his fist.

"So, you do have some fight in you, but you're not above my vengeance!" Scorpion taunted.

"Go to hell!" Sub-Zero yelled.

"Believe me, Sub-Zero, I already have." Scorpion replied.

Finally, Sub-Zero broke through Scorpion's defence and hit him across the face with a punch. Scorpion grunted in pain, then attacked with two punches. Sub-Zero blocked the first, then grabbed the other fist, and socked Scorpion in the face. The force of the blow sent Scorpion stumbling back, and forcing him to turn around. As he stumbled, Sub-Zero grabbed him by the shoulder from behind, pulled him in close, and then kicked up his foot, hitting Scorpion right in the face.

Scorpion's body shook from the sudden hit, then stood in place, swaying somewhat from dizziness. Sub-Zero let go of him, whirled around, and kicked his leg under Scorpion's, sweeping him off his feet. Scorpion landed on his back painfully, hitting his head on the ground at the same time as the rest of his body, making it much more painful.

Scorpion wearily got back up. He faced Sub-Zero, and glared at him angrily.

Then, Scorpion slowly reached up and grabbed his facemask, and began to take it off. As he did, the black hood around his head, and even the exposed skin around his eyes separated into thin strips that shrank into the mask as he took it off.

Sub-Zero's eyes widened, as Scorpion removed his mask.

As the dead ninja completely removed the mask, on the face, there was nothing, except a large, grey skull, staring evilly at the ice warrior.

Behind Sub-Zero; Sonya still a bit dizzy from Scorpion's kick looked wearily up and stared in disbelief at what she saw.

Suddenly, the empty eye sockets of the skull began to glow with a fiery yellow light.

Sub-Zero realizing what Scorpion was planned to do; grabbed Sonya by the arm and pulled her close to his body. As he did, Sub-Zero unleashed a blue stream of light and created an ice shield.

"Stay behind the ice shield, Sonya!" Sub-Zero shouted at her.

As this happened, Scorpion tilted his head backwards, and inhaled deeply, as thin streams of flame flowed into the skull's mouth.

Sub-Zero then knelt down on the ground, taking Sonya with him. As he did, he forced more ice into the ice shield. The surface of the ice shield hardened as Sub-Zero continually to freeze it.

And as this happened, Scorpion juttred his skull head forward, and exhaled, sending a massive stream of scorching flame from the mouth. The stream hit the ice shield and engulfed it as Scorpion continued.

Inside the shield, Sub-Zero was working hard keeping the shield up, while Sonya couldn't tell what was going on.

"What is going on out there?" she asked. "Is it me, or is it getting hot in here?"

"Please Sonya, I have no time for humour, the ice is melting and this is extremely painful." Sub-Zero responded.

Finally, Scorpion stopped the stream of fire that dissipated in mid-air, revealing that the ice shield was still there.

Scorpion put the mask back over his skull face, and the thin strips of the black hood and the skin of his eyes flew out and covered his head, forming his hood and face.

As the mask came back on, Scorpion simply replied.

"Mmmm... toasty."

And started walking towards the ice shield.

As Scorpion walked towards the ice shield; crystallized ice flew all around as Sub-Zero upper-cutted him through the shield.

Scorpion quickly shook off the blow.

"I will rip your spine out and use it like a whip for that!" Scorpion threatened.

Scorpion then got to his feet, and opened his right hand. Suddenly, two of the dragonheads slithered forth again, and twisted themselves around; melted together to form a sort of liquid metal. The metal expanded from Scorpion's hand, until it formed into a long, silver sword. Scorpion then grabbed it by the handle, and swung it around, while shifting his body into a fight stance.

"And another thing, after I killed you, I'm going to tear of Smoke's head and use it for a basketball! And after that I'm going to cut Hydro up into bite-size pieces and mail him across fifty zip codes! And who can forget Rain, I could make jelly moulds out of his intestines, smear peanut butter on top and eat the whole thing without puking!"

"Oh, disgusting!" Sonya said, grimacing

"Oh, and you? I'm going to rip your toenails from your feet and sever the tendons in your calves." Scorpion replied and then turned to Sub-Zero.

"You! All you Lin Kuei vermin go around battling for your own glory! You have no consideration for the world that exists around you. No thought for the countless innocent lives you put in jeopardy every time you put on that costumes of yours!"

"And I suppose that makes you any different!" Sub-Zero shouted.

"Yeah, well sue me." Scorpion responded.

Sub-Zero balled his right hand into a tight fist, and forced some of his cold energy into it. As he concentrated, he let go his fist a little, as a double bladed sceptre, was formed and shaped in his hand.

As it completed formation, Sub-Zero whirled the sceptre around and stood in a fight ready stance.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 11

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

"You're more of a fool if you think you can beat me! I cannot be stopped by such as you!" Scorpion yelled, holding the sword in front of him, the tip pointed straight at the ice ninja.

"That remains to be seen!" Sub-Zero snapped.

"So be it. Learn the futility of your actions. See for yourself that mortal meat and bone cannot contend with the spirit of hell."

In an instant, Scorpion ran forward and slashed, Sub-Zero blocked. The weapons clanged, while spark flew around. Scorpion attacked several more times, but Sub-Zero diverted the attacks with his weapon. He slashed his sceptre several times. Blocked. Two exchanged attacks numerous times, each attack being blocked by the other's weapon. The fighters went back and forth as they attacked and blocked. Scorpion dodged past Sub-Zero's sceptre several times, then slashed at his body, but the ice ninja jumped or ducked his attempts.

Sonya looked with worried eyes as the dead ninja and the ice master's weapon fight ran wild.

Scorpion ran forward with a barrage of slashes to Sub-Zero's body, each one blocked by his sceptre. He retaliated with his own attacks, but they two were blocked with Scorpion's sword. Sub-Zero whirled around and slashed his weapon, but Scorpion blocked with the sword in one hand, and then socked Sub-Zero in the face with the other. Sub-Zero stumbled backwards and rolled over the ground, but soon got back on his feet again.

Scorpion slashed at his head. Sub-Zero ducked. He slashed again, but the ice ninja jumped backwards and avoided it. Scorpion attacked again, but Sub-Zero blocked with his sceptre. But no sooner had the clang been heard, than did Scorpion whirl around in the opposite direction and roundhouse-kicked Sub-Zero in the face. Sub-Zero stumbled backwards, while Scorpion whirled around again and slashed his sword, this time making a painful cut across the right thigh.

Sub-Zero grunted in pain as blood trickled down his leg, while Scorpion walked forward. He lifted his weapon in the air, and tried to attack the ice ninja execution-style, Scorpion tried to force his sword downward, but Sub-Zero would not release his grip.

"Give it up!" Scorpion yelled.

As Scorpion was busy trying to force Sub-Zero's sceptre down, he was unaware that Sonya was sneaking up behind him.

Sonya reached over her left thigh with her right, and drew the dagger from its sheath that Sub-Zero gave her for defending herself if she was to be attacked. She then held it in knife-like fashion, and, with lightning-quick speed, jammed it right into Scorpion's side.

Scorpion yelled as orange blood splattered down his body, and then kicked Sonya in the face. She fell onto her back, while Scorpion stumbled backwards, clutching the dagger stabbed in his side, while more of his blood spilled onto the ground, and his sword turned back into the two dragon coils, that retracted into his hand. Finally, he ripped the knife from his side, stared at the orange liquid stained on the blade, then tossed it to the side.

"Crafty little bitch, aren't you?" Scorpion said.

"I've got my methods!" Sonya replied, getting to her feet.

Thinking she was defenceless, Scorpion suddenly yelled:

"COME 'ERE"

With that, he juttred both hands forward, and from each one, two of the dragon headed coils protruded, sending all four of the coils at Sonya.



Acting quickly, Sonya grabbed a nearby axe from one of the skeletons. The blade was covered with dry blood from other slayed victims. She then threw the axe towards the dragonheads, it spun through the air and it sliced through the necks of the dragon coils. The heads hissed wildly as all four fell to the ground, and the orange liquid spewed forth and sprayed from the coils.

Scorpion screeched as all four of his scorpion stings were painfully cut off from their coils, and they retracted into his hands as he fell onto his back.

Meanwhile, Sub-Zero got back up onto his feet; he looked to the ground for his sceptre, only to find it broken in two, lying on the ground.

Scorpion looked to the side, as he saw Sub-Zero, standing tall on the side.

“So...” Scorpion said. "Got to sometime recuperate, have you?"

"Not completely, but enough to finish you off." Sub-Zero replied.

Sub-Zero outstretched his arm and forced more cold energy through it, forming an ice spear in his right hand. Sub-Zero then hurled it forward, sending it flying at Scorpion. It spun through the air, and impaled the dead ninja through the chest. Scorpion screamed as even more of his orange blood was splattered on the ground.

Scorpion dropped onto one knee, ripping the ice spear from his chest, tossing it to the side. He lifted his head and glared angrily at Sub-Zero, his blank white eyes glowing with anger.

"You idiot! I can survive an organ transplant. I have the power! Now let's try that again. But this time, try to do some real damage!" Scorpion yelled.

Scorpion then shifted his body into a fighting stance, and Sub-Zero did the same.

Scorpion rushed and kicked out his foot. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked back. Blocked. Scorpion shot his fists out in three successive punches. Blocked. Sub-Zero returned with a series of punches himself. Blocked. Scorpion attacked with several powerful kicks. Sub-Zero blocked each one, but the force of the last one sent him stumbling backwards. Scorpion attacked again with a high roundhouse, but Sub-Zero caught his foot, and twisted his leg around, sending Scorpion spinning to the ground and landing on his back.

The Shirai Ryu warrior quickly got back onto his feet, and regained his fighting pose. He ran forward and delivered three punches, followed by a kick to the face. Blocked. Sub-Zero spun around and performed a double spinning kick. Ducked. Scorpion kicked twice; once at the side, again at the neck. Sub-Zero blocked the first one easily, and simply arched his body backwards to dodge the second. He then returned with a kick to the face. The impact sent Scorpion spinning around, while Sub-Zero whirled around again and delivered a kick to the back of his spine. Scorpion went stumbling forward, then regained his stance and faced Sub-Zero again. Sub-Zero backed away a little as Scorpion turned to Scorpion then suddenly began his attack. He sent a barrage of punches in Sub-Zero's direction. He blocked each and every one,

then ducked the last one and kneed Scorpion in the stomach, then kicked up his foot and hit him in the face. Scorpion stumbled backwards and shook off the blow. As he regained his stance, Sub-Zero rushed forward and delivered an attack on his own. He kicked twice. Blocked. Scorpion followed with a roundhouse. Ducked. Sub-Zero punched twice. Blocked. Scorpion punched again. Sub-Zero dodged to the side, grabbed his arm, whirled around, and finally let go, letting him run a little. As he began to turn around, Sub-Zero jumped into the air, spun around, and delivered a mid-air spin kick to the face. Scorpion's body made a full 360-degree spin before landing on the ground again.

Scorpion once again whirled to his feet, and faced Sub-Zero in an angrier stance. He twisted his head around and cracked the bones in his neck, then ran forward and kicked. Sub-Zero whirled to the side and dodged, then shot out the back of his fist. Scorpion recovered from the missed kick and blocked the blow, then turned in Sub-Zero's direction and shot his fist into Sub-Zero's ribs.

As Sub-Zero stumbled backwards in pain, Scorpion smiled underneath his mask.

Meanwhile, not far away; Sonya was overlooking the fight with a worried expression, then, she saw something on the ground, she bent over and picked it up, it was some kind of paper covered in dust, she then brushed the dust off with the back of her hand and a picture came into view, she brushed of some more and her gaze widened.

It was a photo of Johnny Cage with his signature written on the side. A tear then appeared from her eye and it ran down over her left cheek and in the corner of her mouth. Another one came from her other eye and it dripped on the photo.

Meanwhile...

"I'm going to pull your spine through your nose and make a milkshake out of your heart!" Scorpion spat.

"So what's your point?" Sub-Zero replied.

"My point, dear boy, is . . . if you're looking to play the eye for an eye game, you're a bigger fool than I thought! Allow me to demonstrate!"

Scorpion then rushed at Sub-Zero and kicked three times. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked twice. Blocked. Scorpion punched several times. Blocked. Scorpion punched at Sub-Zero's head. Ducked. Scorpion punched. Sub-Zero grabbed him around and tried to flip him onto his back, but Scorpion ended up landing on his feet. He then spun around while Sub-Zero still held his arm, and managed to flip Sub-Zero onto his back instead. However, Sub-Zero quickly reacted by kicking up his foot and hitting Scorpion in the face. Scorpion stumbled backwards, while Sub-Zero flipped to his feet.

Waves of intense cold emanate from Sub-Zero like concentric ripples on a pond. A frigid force field expands, freezing everything it touches. As the force

field grew wider and wider, it froze Scorpion in place. Sub-Zero then stopped the force field, walked towards the frozen Scorpion, grabbed him by neck and with one swift pull, the head of Scorpion came away from its shoulders, and the spinal cord followed.

Scorpion was defeated.

Sub-Zero then turned away from Scorpion and saw Sonya crying.

He began walking towards Sonya, tossing the head away and knelt next to Sonya. Sonya looked up toward Sub-Zero next to her and a smile crossed her face.

Sub-Zero wiped the tears from her eyes and saw the photo in her hand.

"Is this perhaps..." Sub-Zero began.

"Yes." Sonya replied.

"I'm sorry," Sub-Zero replied. "I really am."

Sonya didn't reply. She only kept looking at Johnny's photo. Sub-Zero sighed, feeling her pain.

Sonya then replied. "He had no right to get Johnny involved in his plans...I had no right. It was my fault. He died for me. Rayden should have known Shao Kahn wouldn't let him live so easy. One human life didn't matter to him. A day he kills someone a person cares about may have been the most important day of that person's life... for Shao Kahn, it was Tuesday. "

She then smiled at Sub-Zero, put the photo in her back pocket and slowly rose to her feet, while Sub-Zero got up and stared at her.

"Let's get back to the others." She said, turning and walking away.

She then stopped and turned to the ice ninja.

"Uh...Subsy. How are we going to get out of here?"

Sub-Zero smiled underneath his mask.

"This way."

He then turned around and started walking in the opposite direction, Sonya followed him as he walked away.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 12

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

"Where the hell were you two?" Smoke demanded.

"Give us a break, Smoke, we've been through hell." Sonya annoyingly replied.

"Well, it doesn't matter now, the match will begin any time now." Hydro said.

Then suddenly, Onero rose from his thrown to speak.

"Today, is the second day of bloodshed," Onero called out. "Kombat begins here and now! This is where glory is grown! This island will once again be your battleground from now on. The first...

"...The Brother of the Shadow member, Dusk!"

Smoke's eyes widened at the sound of that name.

"And the Komodo Sai warrior, Ruban!"

Onero sat back down and relaxed.

Ruban walked into the arena. It was a large, grassless field, surrounded on all four sides by ninja spectators-filled bleachers. Behind Ruban was the entrance from which he walked onto the field. Directly ahead, some fifty feet in front of him, was another entrance, apparently for his challenger. Above it was a large throne, constructed of marble, displaying the head of a large dragon. On either side were pairs of the cloaked guards, and on either side of them flew a flag displaying the Mortal Kombat emblem.

The doors in the opposite entrance creaked open. Revealing a tall, dark figure. The figure walked out into the arena, and stood about ten feet from where Ruban was. Ruban studied the figure at a closer distance while Smoke standing on the side, couldn't believe his eyes.

"If Dusk wins, you can have the opportunity to kill him later." Onero said to one of the guards.

The guard turned his head upward, revealing a metallic green mask, shielding his face from the light, and therefore not showing any facial expression of any kind. The mask was modelled to look like the head of a serpent of some sort, complete with fang decorations. The guard's only response was a low-pitched growl, followed by what anyone could only guess was a hissing sound. But only one right next to this man could hear it over the roar of the crowd.

"However, I strongly deny it."



Onero then once again stood up from his thrown, crossed his hands in an X-like sign and yelled out.

“FIGHT”

Releasing his arms as he yelled out.

Ruban stepped forward, and opened his hands. Suddenly, a bright burning light emanated from his palms, and expanded onto two large balls of intense flame. The balls then stretched out and started flowing all around his body into two large streams. The stream split apart into several more, all of them flying around the ninja's body like a swarm of fireflies. The flames stopped spinning, re-compacted into the large balls of fire; he ignited his fingers, and sent a thick stream of fire circling around Dusk's body, with no more than a foot or so on any side of his body.

The streams circled closer and closer, while Dusk waited for the right moment to strike. When he felt he had the chance, Dusk jumped high into the air, flipped through the air, and landed in front of Ruban, slicing the toe of his boot down on his face as he landed. Once Dusk was on the ground again, he kicked up his foot and hit Ruban in the face, sending his torso snapping upward. He then kicked to his stomach, and that sent him falling backwards. Ruban then quickly flipped to his feet and ran forward, stepped over Dusk's shoulder and kicked outward, sending Dusk on his stomach while Ruban landed on his feet.

Dusk rolled off his stomach and flipped to his feet.

"Wait for it... "Dusk told himself, remembering his training. "Never be the first to attack. ' "

Suddenly, Ruban ran forward and delivered a triple punch towards Dusk's head. Dusk threw up his arms and blocked it. Ruban followed with a kick to the face. Blocked. He then whirled around and did a roundhouse. Dusk ducked the kick, and as Ruban faced forward again, he shot his fist upward and smashed him in the face with an uppercut. Ruban stumbled backwards, while Dusk ran forward and kicked again. Blocked. He punched twice. Blocked. He spun around and made a roundhouse. Ducked. Dusk continued spinning until he stood with his back to Ruban, then kicked his foot backwards at him. Ruban grabbed his foot and held onto it. Dusk then jumped forward and performed a forward flip, kicking him in the face.

Dusk landed safely on his feet, while Ruban fell backwards and landed hard on the ground.

Ruban quickly flipped to his feet again and attempted to punch Dusk in the face. Ducked. Dusk grabbed the arm as it went by him, then kicked to the stomach. Ruban hunched over, then Dusk let go of his arm, whirled around, and delivered a downward slicing kick to the back of the ninja's neck. Ruban flipped over and landed on his back, but almost instantly rolled forward and was on his feet again.

Ruban stepped forward and kicked at Dusk's chest. Dodged. He followed with a running axe kick. Dusk stepped to the side and dodged, and attempted a kick to Ruban's head while he wasn't looking. Ruban ducked, while Dusk continued with a sweep. Ruban jumped onto his hands and sprung forward, landing on his feet once again. Dusk followed him and attempted a roundhouse to the face as soon as Ruban got back up. However, Ruban greatly arched his back and ducked the kick, placed his hands on the ground, then kicked up both his feet and hit Dusk in the chest. Dusk went stumbling backwards, while Ruban flipped onto his feet. While Dusk recovered, Ruban lashed out with his fist. Dodged. Ruban followed with several more stylish punching maneuvers, all either blocked or dodged. Ruban made a kick to the stomach, then attempted to strike out with the back of forearm. Dusk saw it coming and ducked before it hit. Ruban continued his spin, and swung around his other arm. However, Dusk flipped and somersaulted through the air, landing on his feet and faced Ruban again.

Onero never took his eyes off the young fighter. He never even blinked.

"Look at his style of fighting," he said to the cloaked guard next to him. "It's wild and somewhat erratic, yet his inexperience in a match like this gives him a certain physical and mental edge that other, more experienced fighters would lack given the same circumstances. He has more chance against Ruban than I thought. What do you think?"

The guard, the same one wearing the strange green mask, replied with a low-pitched growl.

Ruban then ran at Dusk, aiming his hell at Dusk's head. Dusk dodged and chopped to the midsection, then kicked at the head. Ruban stumbled backwards, and Dusk tried a jump kick. Ruban simply stepped to the side and dodged. Dusk turned towards his opponent and punched, missing Ruban's face by an inch. Dusk punched again, but Ruban blocked and punched at Dusk. Dusk grabbed his arm and made another shot at the midsection, attempting to create a weak spot. No such luck. The punch barely budged the ninja, who retaliated with a quick shot to the face, followed by another to the stomach, followed by an attempted kick to the stomach. Dusk grabbed the ninja's foot and twisted it around, sending Ruban's body off the ground and spinning through the air.

But while airborne, Ruban managed to make a stylish kick to the face, then landed safely on the ground. Dusk went headfirst to the ground, stunned by the powerful sudden blow.

Dusk spun his body and lifted himself to his feet breakdance-style, then raised his arms as Ruban tried a double-fisted downward strike. Dusk kicked out his foot and kicked the ninja in the stomach, then ran forward and kicked at him twice while he stumbled backward. He finished with a powerful double-footed jump kick. Dusk landed painlessly on his side, while Ruban flew backwards and landed on his back. Both were on their feet instantly.

Ruban then positioned his hands in a prayer-like fashion. Suddenly, a spark of flames erupted in the air between his palms, and grew to a basketball-sized ball of fire. He then shot his hand upward and sent the fireball into the air like a cannonball, sending it straight at Dusk. The young fighter jumped and flipped out of the way, just as the fireball impacted on the wall behind him and exploded, sending chunks flying everywhere.

Ruban was beginning to take the upper hand. After several blocked punches, he kicked to Dusk's midsection, grabbed him by the legs, and tossed the young fighter over his head and behind back. Dusk flipped over and landed on his backside, while Ruban turned and attempted to stomp on him. Dusk rolled out of the way and got back up, only to be met with a kick to the face. As he stumbled backwards, Ruban attacked with several more kicks. Blocked. Ruban punched twice. Blocked. Finally, Ruban made another kick to the face, followed by two more to the midsection, and finally one to the chest. Dusk went stumbling backwards.

Suddenly, from Ruban's fist, burst a flame of fire, ready to make the killing blow.

"NOOO!" Smoke screamed.

Ruban turned his head around towards Smoke and smiled beneath his mask, he then looked back to Dusk.

Ruban threw his fist of fire forward, aiming at Dusk's neck. But Dusk regained his senses just in time, as he

backwards, dodging the fist, grabbed Dusk's arm, and hurled him to the ground. He then knelt down while still holding the arm, twisted it around, dislocating the shoulder. The ninja screeched underneath his mask, but he was quickly silenced by two quick shots to the face by Dusk's fist.

"Yeah!" Smoke shouted in joy, accidentally punching Rain next to him.

"Oh, sorry." Smoke replied while Rain rubbed his shoulder from the blow.

Meanwhile, while Ruban groaned from the pain, he kicked up his leg and hit Dusk in the back of the neck, sending him rolling off on top of him. Dusk got back up and faced Ruban again.

Ruban slowly got back onto his feet, his face displaying quite an unfriendly expression, even through his mask. He looked at his right arm, the shoulder of which was still obvious out of place, visible from the large bulge through his costume. However, with a quick snap of his arm, the shoulder was relocated.

Ruban quickly let out another fireball from his hands and sent it towards Dusk. The fireball hit Dusk in front of him. An explosion erupted, and Dusk was knocked onto his backside. As he tried to get up, he looked into the cloud of dust created by the explosion, just in time to see Ruban running at him full-speed, fire in his fists, like a rabid dog. He jumped at the young warrior, planning to explode him in mid-flight, but Dusk

grabbed him by the arm, arched his back, and suplexed the orange ninja hard into the ground. Afterward Dusk kicked up his feet, rolled backward, landed on Ruban's chest, and back flipped off of him, applying a large amount of pressure to the chest.

As soon as Dusk touched the ground again, he also positioned his hands in a prayer-like fashion, and a fireball erupted from the air between his palms, only this time the fireball was black as opposed to yellow. He then shot his hand upward and sent the soul fireball towards Ruban.

The force of the ball hit Ruban in the chest, and sends him half the length of the arena.

Ruban slowly got up, then slowly and weakly dropped to his hands and knees.

Meanwhile, Dusk walked and stood before him. The crowd was aghast, but still cheering for him. Chants of "Finish him! Finish him" erupted from the stands. Onero sat up from his podium and shouted the two final words.

**"FINISH HIM!"**

Dusk looked down to his opponent, still on his hands and knees, struggling for life. Then Dusk saw the look; the pleading expression on the distorted face that silently screamed for forgiveness; for mercy.

"No", Dusk thought, "He could not kill this man."

"NO MERCY!" Onero called out.

"No! I won't kill this man!" Dusk called out.

Onero's eyes widened. "WHAT<sup>9</sup> "

"I beat your warrior," Dusk said. "That will be enough for me... for now."

He turned and proudly walked towards the exit. On his way in, he noticed a figure, a grey figure standing between a blue and purple ninja, he examined the figure closer.

His eyes widened as he thought he knew who it was.

"Could it be...?"

"No..." he thought. "It can't be..."

With that strange experience, he turned and exited.

The arena was completely emptied. The only people who remained were Onero and two of his guards; one of was the large one with the green mask. They all stood above Ruban's unconscious body, which was laid out on its back.

"Well, the day has certainly began to a fine start," Onero said sarcastically. "I had hoped for a chance to rid myself of a few problems right from the start... and instead I get one of my greatest champion's unconscious on the ground."

Ruban groaned with slow, raspy breaths as he slowly regained consciousness.



"You failed me, Ruban," Onero said. "You know I don't like failure."

The ninja slowly shook his head from side to side, trying to deny that he truly failed."

"And the look on your face as well..." he continued. "You pleaded for your life. Among all the dishonours of defeat, to plea for your pathetic life and be spared is by far the most heinous of them. You disgust me... "

Onero turned his back to the ailing fighter, who weakly reached up towards him.

"We'll just have to keep moving on as planned," Onero said to the tall, cloaked guard. "You'll get your chance Khameleon to fight Sub-Zero and the others...After I see a sorcerer for Sub-Zero's brother's soul.

The guard named Khameleon growled in agreement.

The two began to walk away, while the third stayed at Ruban's side.

"Sire," he said. "What about Ruban?"

Onero froze and hesitated. He then turned around, walked back to where Ruban lay, knelt down towards the ground, grabbed the ninja by the neck, listened to him screech for air for a second or two, then, with a motion of his hand, broke the poor man's neck. There were no noises to muffle the echo of the "CRACK!"

The other guard stared in disbelief at what the grandmaster had just done. Onero stood back up.

"Remove him." Onero answered.

On that thought, he and Khameleon turned and walked away, leaving the third behind with the fresh corpse.

Onero and Khameleon stormed back into the mountain. Once inside, they immediately retreated to Onero's throne room. Grumbling angrily, Onero plopped into his chair and started to brood, while Khameleon looked on with careful eyes.

"Bad day on the job?" a voice asked.

Onero looked up and saw Ja'kaar sitting on one of the tables.

"Extremely" Onero answered.

"Oooh, poor baby." Ja'kaar teased.

"Ja'kaar, please. This morning when I woke up, I had one nerve left and now you're getting on it."

Onero then lifted his hand upward toward the air and the air began rippling as he made a portal. The ripples grew and a huge hole opened from nowhere. Onero walked toward the portal he made.

"And now if you'll excuse me, I have business to discuss with a sorcerer." Onero said, turning to Ja'kaar.

He then stepped in the portal and he felt a strange sensation as the light of the portal engulfed him and pulled his body toward Outworld.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 13

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

The lush surroundings of the island have given way to reveal this location's true identity, the stark wasteland that is called Outworld. Onero survey the territory grimly. It is empty and ugly beyond perception, a place devoid of life and growth.

Onero made his way to Shang Tsung's dojo, which was close between Shao Kahn's castle and Motaro's region.

As he approached the dojo, which was an entire tower; a large, bulky masked guard stepped in his path, as he approached the door. The guard crossed his arms defiantly.

"This holds off limits, no one may enter." The guard said.

Onero, ignoring the warning, tried walking around, but the guard swayed back and forth, blocking his way.

"Didn't you hear me!" the guard's voice grew louder.

"Let's try a little diplomacy here: I am Onero, former leader of the clan known as the Lin Kuei, a master shape shifter and if you have any sense in that thick skull of

yours, you'll be wise enough to let me in." Onero said to the guard.

"Bah! Your threats mean nothing to me, old man. If you are Lin Kuei, you will be glad enough to prove it." The guard challenged.

With that remark, Onero just pulled up his sleeve and flashed his wrist....to reveal the Lin Kuei tattoo. The tattoo was a circle, and in the circle was a triangle with crescent moons where the points of the triangle would be.

"I'm terribly sorry, old man, but that isn't enough proof for me." The guard replied.

Onero, sensing that the guard is beginning to dislike him, replied, "Look, let's try solving this without violence..." "I demand that you should leave, NOW!" the guard demanded.

"You're in no position to demand anything." Onero replied, sounding more threatening.

"LEAVE!!" the guard shouted.

The guard curled his arm backwards, ready to strike out at Onero. In fact, he started to launch his fist forward, getting ready to hit him right in the face. But before any contact was made, the arm suddenly stopped, as if it was being controlled telekinetically. Onero's eyes then gave off a flash of white light.

"I wouldn't try that if I were you..." Onero said.

Onero then grabbed the man by the neck, lifting him off the ground.

As the guard gasped for air, he replied, "Please!" the guard begged. "Don't kill me!"

"What?" Onero raised an eyebrow, "The ever vigilant guard of the great Shang Tsung, pleading for his life from an old man." Onero tightened his grip.

"Mercy..." the guard gasped. "For the love of god... I beg you....mercy on me. . ."

"Look at me!" Onero said. "You do not deserve to be a guard for Shang Tsung. All you deserve is death, death at the hands of Onero!"

Then, with a sudden snapping motion of his hand, a crunching sound erupted from the guard's head, and his body went limp.

"The guards of Shang Tsung must be ever ready, ever ruthless. You must remember exactly what it is you represent, the royal guardianship of the Shang Tsung dynasty." Onero said to the guard's lifeless body, admiring his handiwork.

Onero let go his hand around the guard's neck, dropping him to the ground; he then stepped over the body towards the door.

Inside Shang Tsung's tower. Shang was sitting on a podium atop a stone platform in the side of the huge

room. He rests his chin on his hand in a pensive way, concentrating hard how he might kill the warrior monk, Liu Kang, and wins his emperor's trust again. It's been 500 years since after his reigning champion; Goro defeated the original Kung Lao, Shang Tsung sapped the human's soul- he retained his thoughts and memories.

Several marble pillars were holding up the ceiling, various torches and candles were lit, meagrely illuminating the temple surrounding him in fiery, flickering yellow lights. Swords, sceptres, spears, spiked clubs, small arm-mounted crossbows, axes and all sorts of weapons were hanging down a nearby metal rack-the blades glistened in the candle lights of the stone room.

A stylized, circular logo of a dragon's head was carved on the roof. Narrow eyes, swirling sparse mane and a serpents' tongue.

"Didn't I see this episode already?" came a voice from the shadows.

Shang Tsung raised his head and stood up from his throne.

"Reveal yourself now or die!" Shang said.

Onero walked out of the shadows, which surround him.

"YOU?" Shang's voice rose. "What are you doing here, Onero?"

"Why, I think you already know."

"...Yes." Shang smiled. "You want me to lend you Sub-Zero's soul, tell me why?"

"I'm afraid we are losing against Sub-Zero and his comrades, his better than we thought, but if you lend me his sibling's soul, we can put his life to a crashing halt."

Shang gave a nasty chuckle "Poor Onero, if the emperor hears that the mortals are winning, you'll be for Netherrealm."

"Is that so?" Onero snapped, "And suppose I tell Shao Kahn that you didn't help me through this whole mess..."

"You're revolting!" Shang snapped, "You're acting pretty tough considering the last time I saw you, very well, I will lend you the soul, but as soon as the younger one has fallen, I get his warrior soul. Agreed?"

Onero grew still for a moment and finally replied, "Agreed."

Shang chuckled in his evil way and stood up from his throne and walked past Onero and stood before a stone altar in the centre of the room. It stood about four feet high, and decorated with many more candles. On top of the altar, there stood a circular structure in the centre of which was carved the dragon emblem of Mortal Kombat, surrounded itself by a ring of lit candles, each standing on a carved candleholder.

"Witness in disbelief the ancient powers of the great Shang Tsung." Shang turned his head toward Onero.

He then turned back towards the altar and closed his eyes, concentrating on his energies.



He mumbled some bizarre words, as he mumbled he raised his hand toward the air. Suddenly, the stone of the dragon motif on the alter began to take on a greenish glow. At the same time, Shang's body began to glow a fiery orange.

The glows became brighter and brighter, until the green glow of the dragon motif turned into a brightly burning flame. Shang then opened his eye, revealing a bright, fiery yellow glow in the irises.

As the two flames burned, the stone motif morphed around itself, and turned into a green fire dragon, that flew around the alter it stood on several moments earlier. Meanwhile, out of Shang's body, flew an orange coloured dragon, that flew around where Shang was standing.

As the two dragons were formed, they flew around the room, and roared and hissed as they circled around one another.

Both the dragons flew at the back of the room, and circled around each other and a human form appeared from within the whirlwind.

Finally, both the dragons flew back to their respective areas, where they morphed once again; the green flame into the stone motif, and the orange flame into Shang's body.

Shang opened his eyes, and turned his head at where the human form stood.

The figure stood with his legs spread, head half looking down, with the eyes staring ominously into the space beyond and his hands at his sides, looking as if to summon a great destructive power. Shang smiled at his handy work.

Just then, one cloaked guard walked toward the new warrior, carrying with him a blue folded uniform.

"Your ambition is even greater than I thought, Shang Tsung." Onero said.

"This is only a fraction of my power, Onero. I can do a great deal much more than this....resurrection." Shang replied.

They both then looked back at Sub-Zero, fully dressed now.

His costume was identical to his younger brother's, but darker blue in colour. He was dressed in black. Two stripes of dark blue went up his chest and down his back, revealing a black V-sign on his chest. He wore blue arm and shin guards, and a blue belt and loincloth. He wore a black hood on his head and a blue mask that covered his mouth and nose that left his dark blue eyes staring coldly at Shang Tsung and Onero.

"Sub-Zero lives again!" Shang shouted.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 14

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

"Back already! You weren't gone but a few minutes. I knew it wouldn't be so hard." Ja'kaar said, in surprise as Onero and his new pawn stepped out of the dimensional portal.

"Easy for you to say, Ja'kaar! All you had to do was look and see if I returned back alive." Onero replied.

Ja'kaar wanted to answer but stopped short as he saw the man in blue standing beside

"Ah, yes, Ja'kaar..." Onero said. "You haven't yet met our new pawn. Behold Sub-Zero!

Sub-Zero stared blankly at Ja'kaar, and let out a slow exhaling breath. Ja'kaar lifted an eyebrow. "Impressive, and you think this recruit can get rid of Sub-Zero for us?"

"Oh, you better believe it friend, once Sub-Zero has fallen, the others would be easy to kill."

Onero then laughed and turned to leave, Khameleon, meanwhile, squinted his eyes and glared at Sub-Zero.

No one saw Sub-Zero for some time after the battle between Dusk and Ruban on the outdoor arena. He left without telling anyone; in fact, it was at least three hours later when Sonya Blade found him once again on the shore, practicing with Hydro's sword with different sword fighting maneuvers with the blade in a slow, cool, calculating way. He didn't even blink, even when his eyes went into the sun's direction.

"You had me worried," she said. "Where'd you go?"

"I just had to be left alone for a while," he replied, as he took a seat on the ground and plunged the sword blade-first into the ground. "Had to collect a few thoughts."

"I know the feeling," Sonya said. "I had a few things to think about after you and Smoke left. For one thing, where the hell did you learn to fight like that? That's not normal Lin Kuei tactics."

"My dad got me into it," Sub-Zero answered. "We lived in America, but that was only a cover for my father's true identity and purpose. The Lin Kuei chose me and my brother to see if one of us will take our deceased father's place as the next Sub-Zero. My mother didn't like the idea of us becoming warriors for the clan; she tried in vain to hide us from our father. But eventually we were found and our father returned with us to his homeland. My mother was never seen or heard from again. It was my brother, who took my father's place. After my brother died at the hands of Scorpion, I was chosen as the next Sub-Zero. I travelled to Outworld, hoping to defeat the emperor-

Smoke followed along. When the emperor was defeated, we returned to the Lin Kuei only to find that our fellow Lin Kuei was being automated. Smoke and I knew that this could not happen to us, so we tried to escape. I succeeded in doing so, but Smoke was captured by the clan and became a heartless cybernetic assassin; fortunately for me, a fraction of his true self was left in him. The Lin Kuei then sent Cyrax and Sektor to assassinate me, but fortune seemed to smile upon me as Smoke came to help and so Cyrax and Sektor was defeated. We travelled to Asia, hoping to destroy the Lin Kuei compound. We succeeded in doing so, and with the help of Onero, who coward for his life. We got Smoke's human body back, we converted Onero into a cybernetic to teach him a lesson, but somehow he got his body back."

"That's so sad, leaving your mother and all." Sonya walked up beside him and took a seat. "So what did you have to think about?"

Sub-Zero sighed with discontent. "Risking my life just so I can live on for 100 years and do it all again? And all the while losing my friends all over again?"

Sonya sighed. She couldn't help but feel sorry for him.

Sub-Zero dropped his head toward the ground.

"I'm scared," he finally said.

"Anyone in your place would be."

"Not of death!" he interrupted, turning his head towards her. "I've long since gotten over that. It's more than that."

"Then what, Subsy?"

"Of what could still happen in all of this. Not just of losing my friends, or my life, or who I really am... I'm afraid... that all the turmoil and Mortal Kombat garbage... that I could end up losing you."

Sonya smiled and kissed him on the cheek. "You'll never lose me." She said.

"How can you possibly know that, Sonya?" he asked. "Kano nearly killed you back at the Mortal Kombat tournament. Jarek, along with the rest of the Black Dragon desires your destruction more than life itself."

Sonya sighed, realizing Sub-Zero's point.

Sub-Zero looked back at Sonya and smiled. "But do not worry about it now, that day is still far to come."

Sonya looked into Sub-Zero's eyes and smiled back.

"It's only a matter of time when Onero realizes you're on this island." Sub-Zero suddenly replied.

"You don't have to worry about me," she said smugly. "You can, however, stay here and play with your knife."

"Sword."

"Whatever."

Sub-Zero got back up and took the sword out of the ground, and he began to storm away.

Sonya quickly got up and started towards the mountainside. She stopped in front of him, wearing once again a smile on her face.

"You're really worried about me, aren't you?"

Sub-Zero looked at her, "All I'm asking, Sonya, is, for God's sake, be careful." He said. "These people are more than they look like."

"I'll be careful." She said. "But first, you have to get over your mental dilemmas."

The sight of her beautiful face staring into his almost made Sub-Zero forget his problems; not completely, but enough to give her a smile back.

Although she couldn't see it, she could tell.

"I'll be in our room, if you need me." Sonya said.

She then turned and walked off. Sub-Zero turned back towards the ocean, and continued training with his friend's sword. He practiced for several more minutes, then again took a rest. He stood on the edge of the hill, looking out towards the sun, again not blinking.

All was peaceful, until...

"You can go blind, if you do that."

Sub-Zero whirled around, and pointed the tip of the sword forward, but relaxed as he saw whom it was.

"Why am I at the wrong side of that thing?"

There, dressed in a white and blue robe with long, silver hair under a wide, cone-shaped hat, stood Rayden, the god of thunder, and protector of the realm of Earth. He stood leaning against a boulder, arms crossed, and smiling at Sub-Zero.

"MUST you do that?" Sub-Zero asked.

"I just love seeing the look on your face whenever I do," the god replied. "There's just something about that makes me come back for more!" "I will never understand you, Thunder god." Sub-Zero said.

"Bitch at me, please." Rayden replied.

Rayden came and stood beside Sub-Zero.

"It's Onero isn't it?" the god said.

"Yes, I wonder what else he has in store for me." Sub-Zero turned to Rayden as if expecting an answer. Rayden looked back at Sub-Zero.

"You know even I can't answer that." The god answered. "And even if I could, you know I couldn't tell you. All we can hope is, is that you still have the strength to face what's been placed before you."

"You think I haven't?"

"To be honest, I have no doubts that you can defeat Onero." Rayden said. "You think? Onero has a heart blacker than the skies over Outworld!" "He's only one man, Sub."



"So was Shang Tsung. And he almost single-handedly delivered Earth Realm to Shao Kahn.

Rayden didn't answer. He had him a loss for words.

The two stood just stood there for a moment, then Rayden turned and walked away.

"This is giving me a headache." He replied, and his body disappeared in a brilliant bolt of intense lightning. Sub-Zero was once again left alone. It didn't bother him when Rayden weren't much help to his troubled mind. He was used to it.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 15

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

Sub-Zero sat on the edge of the hill, leaning back against a rock, looking at the sunset, again not blinking. The red sphere slowly sank into the orange-stained waters below it. Suddenly, he whirled around at the sound of rustling, but again relaxed as he saw his old friend, Smoke.

"You're rather a bit jumpy this evening." Smoke replied. He jumped over the boulder and landed beside Sub-Zero.

"So what's on your mind?" Smoke asked.

"Actually, Smoke," said Sub-Zero. "I'd rather not talk about it."

Smoke raised an eyebrow at his response. "What's so serious that you won't even tell ME about it?" he asked.

"What do you think?" the ice ninja replied.

"Oh, just curious." Smoke said.

"Where are the others?" Sub-Zero asked, trying to change the subject.

"Sleeping. What do you think?"

"I suspect it, they need their strength for tomorrow."

"And so do I, I'm turning in too." Smoke stood up and started walking away.

"You coming?" Smoke turned toward Sub-Zero.

Sub-Zero stood up to join his friend.

As they turned to walk off, they noticed, a small, transparent spectre climbing down a tree, and jumped off. The creature got to its feet and turned invisible. Suddenly, it began to morph its shape into that of a six-foot-man, who stood upright, turned his back to Smoke and Sub-Zero, and knelt to the ground. It then materialized. The new figure turned around and the two ninjas could clearly see him. A black costume, with blue, purple, grey, red, green and yellow markings, and a mask in the shape of a fanged mouth.

"What the... who the hell are you?!" Smoke shouted.

"I am your executioner! But you may call me Khameleon!  
GET OVER HERE"

Khameleon then jutted his hand forward, a strange creature extends his hand and what resembles a soaring arrow on a rope shoots from the centre of his palm. The weapon soon reveals itself to be an actual live creature. Smoke leaps back in surprise.

But before it reached its destination. Sub-Zero held his arm outward, and a massive flash of blue light burst forth from his hand, just as the creature was about to impale Smoke through the throat.

The creature hovered in mid-air for a split second, frozen in a thick layer of solid blue ice. The rope fell to the floor, along with the creature, where it shattered into numerous pieces.

The rest of the long coil retracted into Khameleon's hand again. He lowered his arm, then quickly shifted into a fighting stance.

Smoke ran at Khameleon. Khameleon spun around, positioned his hands in a prayer-like fashion, blew fire between his palms, through his fang-like-mask, and shot it upward toward Smoke. The fireball locked onto Smoke's chest, and sends him flying over the cliff.

"SMOKE! Sub-Zero's eyes widened as he saw Smoke falling to his doom.

Sub-Zero then looked back at Khameleon.

"You will die for that, Khameleon!" Sub-Zero challenged.

"Not likely!" Khameleon shouted back.

Khameleon jumped at Sub-Zero, kicking him in the chest with both feet. Sub-Zero was sent flying backwards, hitting a tree and falling to the ground. He got up, then dodged to the left as Khameleon attempted to jump-kick

him. As he dodged, Khameleon hit the tree and faced Sub-Zero. He kicked. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched twice. Blocked. Khameleon kicked twice. Blocked and dodged. Sub-Zero kicked twice, then did a roundhouse. Khameleon dodged the kicks, then ducked under the roundhouse and rolled to the left, got up and kicked Sub-Zero in the side. Sub-Zero bent over in pain. Khameleon then did a backflip, hitting Sub-Zero in the face, he fell backwards, but quickly got up.

"Your will is weak, Sub-Zero, soon to break!" Khameleon taunted.

Khameleon then punched three times. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched. Blocked. Khameleon kicked. Dodged. Sub-Zero punched, but Khameleon grabbed his arm, twisted it, and then kicked Sub-Zero in the stomach.

He then let go of his arm and snap-kicked him in the face. Sub-Zero stumbled backwards, then rolled to his right as Khameleon attempted to jump-kick him. Sub-Zero got up and kicked Khameleon in the side. Khameleon dodged it, whirled to the side, and kicked Sub-Zero in the face. Sub-Zero fell onto his back.

Khameleon stood over him and attempted to stomp him with his foot, but Sub-Zero kicked up both feet, hitting Khameleon in the stomach, then flipped to his feet. Khameleon stumbled backwards from the surprise attack. Sub-Zero faced the ninja and jump-kicked. Khameleon stumbled backwards. Sub-Zero then kicked twice, then punched several times, then delivered a roundhouse to the face. Khameleon flipped over and

landed on his back. He got up just in time to avoid Sub-Zero's foot. He quickly took his fighting stance.

"You fool!" Khameleon spat.

Sub-Zero twirled his arms around in ninja-like fashion, while a blue mist trailed off his fingers. He then shot his right arm towards Khameleon, and a thick stream of icy blue energy flew forth, through the air, and struck Khameleon in the chest. He was covered in a sheet of ice.

Sub-Zero stood where he was, breathing rather heavily, with his arm still outstretched like he was going to do something else. But he didn't, he only relaxed his body, trying to stop the pain running through his body.

Sub-Zero turned around, and walked toward the edge of the cliff.

But as he walked, he heard a crackling sound; he spun around and looked at his frozen foe. The ice shattered, in a spray of crystallized water and flailing mist. Shards flew everywhere.

Khameleon laughed, and replied, "Do you really think, you can stand the onslaught of Khameleon, general of Shao Kahn's army.

Khameleon stormed, and kicked at Sub-Zero. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched twice. Blocked. Khameleon kicked twice. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched, but Khameleon grabbed his arm, elbowed him in the chest, kneed him in

the stomach, then twirled his arm and flipped him onto his back. Sub-Zero kicked his foot up and hit Khameleon in the side. Khameleon stumbled backwards as Sub-Zero got up. Sub-Zero kicked to the stomach, then the face, then did a roundhouse, Khameleon was knocked backwards and a tree behind him. As Sub-Zero approached him, Khameleon attempted to punch. Sub-Zero blocked and punched to the face. He then punched again, then kicked repeatedly. He punched again and again relentlessly. Finally, Khameleon stood, extremely fatigued. Sub-Zero narrowed his eyes and yelled underneath his mask, ran at him, then jumped in the air and kicked the ninja in the face. The ninja went flying backwards and hit another tree, landed on the ground, and breathing really heavily.

Suddenly, Khameleon was kicked in the face; he fell to the ground and rolled from the blow, then faced whoever just attacked him. It was Smoke.

"Smoke! You don't know how glad I am of seeing you, alive." Sub-Zero said, astonished.

"I don't die that easy." Smoke replied.

"Hey!" Khameleon shouted. "No fair ganging up! You're supposed to fight clean, one-on-one, until I treacherously stab you in the back and destroy you!" "Yeah, life's tough. Isn't it?" Smoke said.

Khameleon shot his hands forward, after creating another fireball.

Sub-Zero and Smoke dodged the fireball, and the tree behind them fell on impact. Smoke rolled out of the way, just in time as the tree struck the ground.

"That's the best you have, Khameleon?!" Smoke yelled. "You know my old buddy, Pyro, told me you were a heavy hitter. And now this? To say I'm disappointed is an understatement. "

"You mock me?" Khameleon yelled back.

"Err... yeah! I guess I do."

Khameleon then ran forward and kicked Smoke in the face. Smoke stumbled backwards.

He kicked. Blocked. Khameleon punched twice. Dodged. Smoke kicked twice. Blocked. Khameleon kicked twice. Dodged. Smoke punched twice, then kicked twice, then did a roundhouse. Blocked and ducked. Khameleon punched. Dodged. Smoke punched. Blocked. Khameleon punched again. Ducked. Smoke punched twice. Blocked. Khameleon kicked, then punched, then kicked again. Dodged. Smoke kicked with one foot. Khameleon grabbed it. Smoke then kicked up his other foot and hit Khameleon in the face. The ninja fell over as Smoke spun and lands on his feet. As Khameleon got up, Smoke ran, jumped, and kicked him in the chest with both feet. Khameleon went flying backwards and hit a tree.

Khameleon narrowed his eyes at Smoke and yelled.

Smoke, meanwhile, started smoking and ran at him and began punching, Khameleon tried punching back, but



everyone was blocked or dodged by Smoke's lightning speed. Until, Khameleon was standing on the edge of the cliff. Khameleon breathed heavily, until he heard Smoke yell, and his eyes widened. Smoke then gave a roundhouse towards the temple of his skull; Khameleon spun around and fell off the cliff to the jagged rocks below. The battle has been waged and Smoke stands victorious on the cliff, watching the water's below.

"Flawless Victory." He replied.

Smoke then turned to Sub-Zero.

"Well, we've done allot of damage around here. Ready to blow this joint?"

Sub-Zero came and joined Smoke. "I'll never understand you, Smoke. Such a great sense of humour, yet your millimetres away from death."

"It's the way I deal with things like this, I suppose I just want some really exotic words for my tombstone." Smoke replied.

As they walked away, they did not see the figure watching them from off in the distance. Sub-Zero stood on another cliff, higher than those of which the fight had took place. He stood with his legs spread, his hands held at his sides, balled in fists. He stared with eyes half-closed as he watched his brother and former friend walked away.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 16

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

"He was like an exact duplicate of Scorpion, only much stronger... Sub-Zero replied.

“  
. . . And like Reptile, only much more agile." Smoke interrupted.

"I know him." Rayden intervened.

"Wait a minute." Sub-Zero lifted a hand to shush Smoke  
"Did you say you know him?" He asked.

Rayden nodded, then replied. "He is Khameleon from a distant realm. Shao Kahn recruited him from Sadia, a subterranean province of Outworld. He is Kahn's most deadly and one of his best generals on the battle field."

"Yeah, but what is he?" Smoke asked.

"A ninja, like yourself. With amazing powers." Rayden responded.

"Correction, a dead ninja." Smoke said, raising his finger.

"You're certain of that?" Rayden returned.

"Well, he fell off a cliff onto the sharp rocks below." Sub-Zero intervened. "Nothing can survive that."

"Pray your right." Rayden replied.

"Anyway, it doesn't matter, now." Smoke said. "I don't know about you two, but Khameleon individually is enough to make me quite for the day. Do whatever the hell you like... I'm going to bed."

He turned and walked through them both, headed toward his bunk by the door.

"He's right, Rayden. We need some sleep to gather our strength" said Sub-Zero, keeping a wide-eyed stare locked on his face. "I'm turning in too."

Sub-Zero yawned underneath his mask. "Night." He said, and started off to bed.

"Good night, Sub-Zero." Rayden returned. The god then walked away, when suddenly, a gigantic flash of light emerged from his body, and he simply vanished.

"Khameleon has not yet returned." Onero said. "If he has failed, he is no longer." Onero then looked at his resurrected warrior.

"Is it time, master?" Sub-Zero asked.

"Be patient, your time will come." Onero returned.

Onero then began walking away, while Sub-Zero stood there and watched his master leave.

Sub-Zero awoke with a start.

He looked around over the small chamber. Smoke, along with the others were still asleep. He wiped the sweat from his forehead; it was 3: 16 in the morning. He hunched over, and buried his head in his hands.

"What a time to wake up..." he cursed.

He had woken up from a nightmare, so terrible that it felt so real. It all flashed through his mind in what seemed like a very short period of time, but the overall theme of it was obvious, even with all the visions interlaced within.

He saw death in his dream, he saw his own death. Along the dream, there were dragons, monsters and demons.

The ice ninja looked up and out the nearby window. The moon was visible just under the top of the frame, while a chilling breeze blew in the room.

He stood up and grabbed a backpack lying on the floor, reached in and grabbed a white tank top shirt, and slipped it over his torso. He then quietly placed the backpack on the table and walked out of the room, trying to make less noise possible.

Sub-Zero then slowly walked down the hall, until he approached two large doors and opened it, revealing the massive jungle-like terrain around the temple.

Sub-Zero looked up at the main tower from the entrance, staring at the blue-sky overhead. The moon showed itself from behind the main tower, making a gigantic outline of the massive structure.

The wind blew past him as he stood at the doors. The wind blew through his coal black hair. His tank top shirt flapped in the wind as well, showing off his black pants.

Several lampposts were lit, lighting the way across the garden.

"Beautiful night isn't it." A voice came behind Sub-Zero. "A bit chilly though, but not that it bothers you."

Rayden walked up to Sub-Zero from behind, standing tall, his hands behind his back.

"What's the matter?"

"Someone is tormenting me." Sub-Zero said, not even turning around.

"Any suspects?" Rayden asked.

"Someone or something is inside my head, turning all my thoughts to darkness." Sub-Zero replied.

"There is no one inside your head, Sub-Zero," Rayden returned. "No one, but yourself." "Then what is it?" Sub-Zero questioned.

"What you are seeing is no doubt a premonition of your future," Rayden answered. "A fate yet unwritten but clouded with fear."

"If my fate is to die on this island..." Sub-Zero's voice grew louder.

"Like I said, your fate is still unwritten, so far it's your choice not your fate." Rayden interrupted.

Sub-Zero grew a bit calmer.

"It's a burden you must carry." The god said, turning around and walking away, while Sub-Zero still looked out into the sky.

Sub-Zero considered his words.

As Sub-Zero turned around to say something, Rayden was gone.

As he turned back, he saw something. Sub-Zero didn't know what it was. He could have sworn someone or something ran past him, what looked like nothing more than a black shadow at the lights from the lampposts.

Sub-Zero looked left and right. He looked for what he saw, but he couldn't find it, considering he didn't know what he was looking for. And what made it more difficult was the darkness of the area. Suddenly, Sub-Zero saw it

again. It whizzed past like a bullet; a black spirit-like form racing across the air in front of him. He whirled around to see it, but it was gone again. Suddenly, there it went. It flew past Sub-Zero like a cold wind. Finally, Sub-Zero turned around again, and it finally stayed still long enough for him to get a good look at it. A black shape, six and a half feet tall, in the shape of a ninja. Its eyes glowed a bright pale blue, bright enough for Sub-Zero to see his costume. He was dressed in all black, so that he could hardly be seen in the darkness. The ninja revealed itself as Dusk. Sub-Zero backed off.

"I know not who you are. Nor do I care. All I know is that you don't belong here and that makes you a spy." Dusk said, as he stepped into the light of a lamppost.

Then, without warning. The black shape leaped at Sub-Zero, kicking him right in the chest. Sub-Zero was knocked onto his back. He rolled backwards, just in time to avoid two black feet from being driven directly into his face. Sub-Zero flipped to his feet, and shift his body into a fight-ready pose. He rushed at his opponent and kicked. Blocked. Dusk kicked. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched twice. Blocked. Dusk kicked twice, then did a roundhouse. Blocked and ducked. Dusk then punched Sub-Zero in the face, then kicked him in the ribs. He kicked again, but Sub-Zero grabbed his foot, and flipped him over. However, Dusk kicked him in the face on the way over. Sub-Zero was knocked onto his back again, but quickly got up. He kicked. Blocked. Dusk punched. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched three times. Blocked and dodged. Dusk punched, but Sub-Zero grabbed his arm,

and flipped him onto his back. Dusk kicked up, hitting Sub-Zero in the face. Sub-Zero stumbled backwards, while Dusk flipped to his feet. He rushed at Sub-Zero, and kicked him in the face. Sub-Zero stumbled backwards. Dusk kicked him several more times, forcing Sub-Zero back more and more. Finally, Dusk kicked one more time. Sub-Zero dodged to the left, grabbed a nearby lamppost, and swung around it, hitting Dusk in the side. Dusk was knocked over and rolled from the impact. After a few seconds, Dusk flipped onto his feet, and faced Sub-Zero again. Sub-Zero then yelled and charged at him. He kicked. Dusk dodged to the side. Sub-Zero kicked two more times. Blocked. Dusk punched three times, then kicked to the chest. Sub-Zero blocked the punches, and dodged around the kick, whirled around, and kicked Dusk in the side. Dusk spun around and kicked Sub-Zero in the face. Sub-Zero spun around in the air and landed on his stomach. Dusk then tried to stomp on him, but Sub-Zero rolled and got up in time to dodge. Dusk kicked several times, Sub-Zero dodging each one. Dusk kicked again, but Sub-Zero ducked and rolled out of the way, as Dusk kicked and broke a lamppost in two. Sub-Zero punched twice. Blocked. Dusk punched. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked twice. Blocked. Sub-Zero then did an air-spin kick, hitting Dusk right in the face. He spun around again and kicked him in the stomach. Dusk stumbled backwards and fell down.

He quickly got up, and rushed at Sub-Zero. He jumped into the air, foot outstretched. Sub-Zero ducked the flying kick, as Dusk flew right over his



head, landing on his feet about twenty feet away. Sub-Zero turned around and faced him, meanwhile creating a build-up of ice in his hand.

He then shot out his hand, and sent a barrage of ice spikes hurtling towards Dusk.

However, Dusk jumped backwards, and did a back-handspring, in time for the spikes flying right over him. The spikes stayed in flight, then half-buried themselves in a tree behind him. Dusk looked at the half-buried ice spikes and then turned back to Sub-Zero. He then began to charge at Sub-Zero again. Sub-Zero turned and ran the other way, jumping up, rebounding off a lamppost, and flipping through the air. He stretched out his body, and dove straight at Dusk with his foot outstretched. The two warriors collided, and both were knocked onto their backs. Dusk wearily got up, weakened from Sub-Zero's surprise attack. Sub-Zero, however, wasn't hurt in the least. He rushed at Dusk, and kicked him in the chest and face. Dusk stumbled backwards. Sub-Zero punched to the chest, face, and stomach area several times, forcing Dusk back more. Sub-Zero barraged his opponent with kicks and punches, until Dusk stood six meters in front of him, too fatigued to even shift into a fighting stance. Sub-Zero saw the chance to finish him... and he took it.

Sub-Zero prepared to freeze his opponent. He twirled his hands around in a figure-8 motion and just wanted to make contact, until...

"SUB! NO!"

Sub-Zero stopped what he was about to do, and turned his head towards the yell.

Smoke stood at the main entrance, a worried look in his eyes.

Sub-Zero lowered his arms, realizing what he was about to do, had somehow effect Smoke. He realized, Smoke wasn't looking at him but the imposter. He then also turned towards him. But the ninja turned around and ran for the trees behind him. He jumped and disappeared into the darkness. Sub-Zero watched as he disappeared and turned towards Smoke. A puzzled look on his face.

Smoke advanced from the stairs and came and stood beside Sub-Zero.

Sub-Zero gave Smoke a confused look, and said. "I have the suspicion that this ninja is somewhat related to you. Is there perhaps anything your hiding?"

Smoke dropped his head towards the ground, close his eyes, and sighed deeply.

"There's even more to this than you showing me," Sub-Zero said. "I can feel it within you."

Smoke lifted his head, and stared straight forward. He was silent for several moments while Sub-Zero stayed at his side, getting a bit annoyed, and waiting for his answer. And it was obvious he wasn't leaving until he found out.

Finally, Smoke broke the silence. "Sub, I think it's about time you know something about my past."

Smoke began pacing through the garden. Sub-Zero followed him as he walked.

"My father was a 3rd generation Brother of the Shadow warrior codenamed, Shadow. As you know the Brothers have the ability to blend in darkness and unlike the Lin Kuei, they use weapons. When I was born, the Brothers gave me a complete black outfit like my father's, but I had the ability to lure particular matter together that can create smoke. This gave me a lot of aggression and speed, speed like my father. When the Brothers realized this, they tried to hide it, and thus showed me the hidden weapons thrown from the hand. They taught me the spear, and to disappear and reappear with a single hand sign. Since they couldn't keep the smoke from calling out, they called me that."

Sub-Zero listened in silence and interest.

"I've had many battles," Smoke continued. "One including with your arch enemy, Scorpion. I have to admit, that was one of my toughest battles, and we were only fifteen."

"We?" Sub-Zero interrupted.

"Wait and listen." Smoke replied.

Sub-Zero then fell silent."

"Scorpion won," he continued. "But that was because of a handicap which is, if I started to smoke, I will bring dishonour to my clan. So, I couldn't get aggressive or fast. Later in the years, the Lin Kuei fought the Brothers. One being Onero against my father."

Smoke then once again dropped his head toward the ground.

"My father lost," he finally said. "And was killed, not by Onero, but by another warrior which was unclear at the time. A strange sorcerer, as I found out, was Quan Chi; he worked with the Lin Kuei for a short time, until the conflict and fight with your brother. When my father was killed, I left the Brothers and so decided to join the Lin Kuei. I hoped one day to get back at Onero when he least expected. Maybe sparring or practicing."

"But wasn't it Quan Chi who killed your father?" Sub-Zero interrupted again.

"Yes, but let me explain. Quan Chi was paid by Onero for many tasks. Killing my father was one of them. Killing the founder of the Shirai Ryu clan, Takeda, was another. Your brother was standing there when he showed the bones of Takeda. He slipped some kind of poison in his tea that he always drank before he went to sleep. Your brother was surprised when he saw Takeda's bones. I think that was another thing that triggered him for wanting to leave the Lin Kuei. I was there as a guard, and that was how Onero knew me. End of flashback."

"But, there is one question you have not yet answered."  
Sub-Zero replied. "Who is this stranger, I fought a few minutes ago?"

Smoke grew silent for a few seconds, then finally answered. "He is my brother."

Sub-Zero's eyes widened of what he just heard.

TO BE CONTINUED....

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 17

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

"Your brother?" Sub-Zero couldn't believe what he just heard.

"Afraid so." Smoke replied.

"Why haven't you told me?" Sub-Zero asked.

"Too be honest. I thought he was dead."

Smoke nodded. "You see, my brother was chosen by Shao Kahn to lead his army against the forces of a distant realm called Zah. He was captured by imperial forces and was believed to have been killed. But now, seeing him alive just brings questions."

Sub-Zero stared at Smoke with a somewhat confused stare, wondering what was going on inside his head.

Dusk knelt on the roof of the main tower, where it stood tall above the ground below. Hovering above all like a protective sentinel. Dusk stared at the space before him. The light fully showed off his physical form, though the front side of his body was covered by dark shadows. All

the while, all he could think about was how much he hated evil.

"My life had stood for nothing," he thought. "I've never had anything to live up to, and I wonder if I ever will...."

It was somewhat true. Almost all his life, his family was known for cold-blooded murder.

Among all of them, Dusk was probably the most deadly. His last mission was to lead Kahn's army against rebel forces; his last assignment almost cost him his life. He later found out that his capture was no mere incident, but that Kahn ordered his assassins to capture and annihilate him. He rarely escaped with his life. Now, he despised evil with all his heart. The evil of the world was the reason he went into hiding in the first place. There, he thought he could escape it; cleanse himself of his own inner evil. He thought it worked, that is, all too well. His years of total isolation had left him bitter and emotionless. And he hated himself for being so stupid as to let something like that happen to him. He was later overcome with remorse and joined his clan again. Dusk got up to his feet. Then, in a flash, Dusk ran across the roof, and jumped over to the next tower, which was lower, making an incredible leap of at least 15 feet. He kept running, doing it in unbelievable speed. Until, he found the position he wanted, where he ran to the side of the last tower, and acrobatically leapt off of it. As he plummeted towards the ground over 100 feet below, he somersaulted multiple times, while making a 180-degree turn in mid-air. He landed and knelt on the ground. He then got to his feet, and looked up.

"It is time" He said, under his breath.

"...and that's the story." Smoke said.

Sonya came walking behind Smoke, and gently placed her hand over his left shoulder. "It must be hard for you seeing him alive."

Smoke turned his eyes towards Sonya and then stared forth again. "You have no idea."

"Interesting story, but what I don't understand is why Kahn turned on him." Hydro sat on his bunk, with one of his swords in hand. He went up and down the blade with a dry cloth.

He looked up, suspecting an answer.

"The emperor learnt that he was destined to reform, that he would become one of the chosen ones to save earth. So, when Kahn heard this, he sent his warriors to annihilate him. They first took him prisoner, beat and tortured him and then kill him."

"Brutal." Hydro replied.

He then turned and looked out the window. The sun was just in the 7:00 position. He covered his eyes with his right arm. The sun brightened his front side, showing off his blue shirt, with a thick black stripe going down the chest and back, and the bottom of which flared out under the blue belt around his waist. His black pants cast an even darker shadow on the opposite side of the sun's rays,



which distorted his face hidden behind a blue mask made out of cloth.

He turned from the window and began to pick up his other sword, lying next to him. He then arched his back over and placed the two swords, which crossed each other, in the holster placed on his back, and stood up.

"I'm going outside, guys." Hydro replied, then turned towards Sonya, who stood alongside Sub-Zero. "Sonya, care to join me."

She looked at Sub-Zero, seeing if it was okay. He nodded.

"Sure." He responded.

She left the other three, and joined Hydro by the door.

As they turned around out the door. "Hey, Hydro!"

Hydro turned his head toward Sub-Zero.

"Watch her. Protect her with your life."

Hydro nodded. "Don't worry, Sub-Zero. I'll make sure there won't even be a scratch on her, when we return."

Sub-Zero smiled, underneath his mask, then turned back to Smoke.

"So, Hydro. What did you want to talk about?" Sonya asked, as she and Hydro walked across the shore.

"I just needed this down time. Clear my head of all this stress." Hydro replied.

"No problem," Sonya said. "After everything that's been happening in my life. I need a time off too.'

"Personally? I think he's a jerk." Hydro suddenly snapped.

"Wha...? What are you talking about?" Sonya asked.

"Sub-Zero. I think he's a jerk, the way he leads you on, plays with your head.' ,Hydro was beginning to make Sonya mad.

"Course, I'm the last person in the world to give advice on relationships, but...."

"Subsy does not play with my head!" Sonya's voice grew loud.

"Oh, please... C'mon, Sonya, it's not like the two of you live in a cave somewhere...'

Sonya couldn't take it anymore.

"Whatever's between me and Subsy is between me and Subsy!" she yelled.

"Of course it is," Hydro backed off. "But that doesn't mean I'm not allowed to care about you."

Sonya backed off, as she heard this.

"Look, I have nothing on Sub-Zero, he's a good man. Hydro said. "But let's look at the facts. He slips into the  
”

darkness without telling you, which hurt you a lot, as I heard. And then he suddenly appears from nowhere, which hurt you even more. He forgets to tell you, he has a price on his head. Forgets when...

Sonya gave a deep sigh, realizing his point.

"I see your point," she replied. "Not too pathetic, huh?"

Hydro came and stood beside Sonya, and placed his right hand on her left shoulder.

"There's nothing pathetic about wanting to be loved, Sonya.'

Sonya turned her head and looked at Hydro. "Why, Hydro. That was almost profound."

It was now that the two of them passed the vertical border of a massive cliff leading up the middle portion of the beach. It was only now in fact that Sonya noticed what was beyond it, despite that it started to reveal itself some five minutes ago; she had been so engrossed in this somewhat pointless conversation that she hardly noticed.

Beyond the cliff, she started seeing a series of life-size statues, placed on four-foot high stands, and lined up erratically within a circle or various-sized marble pillars. A path was subliminally lain between the statues to compliment their arrangement. Sonya stood and stared at them for a moment, realizing she hadn't noticed them before. Meanwhile, the ninja in blue continued towards them.

"You can get a much better view of them if you just keep walking towards them." Hydro called.

She caught up to him just as he reached the outer border of the circle of marble. He stood and looked at each of the nine statues that stood before him.

"Who are these people?" Sonya asked.

"Previous heroes of the Kombatant's Generation," Hydro answered. "These monuments were constructed long ago in memory of their brave efforts to defend the human race from Outworld forces that would otherwise remove it from existence."

Sonya turned her head in one direction, she saw a gargantuan statue of a man with a large, threatening axe. Interesting enough, his head was missing. She turned her head in another direction, to see a Japanese Samurai Master and a Dark Ages Warlord.

She walked past a few more freakish figures and turned towards Hydro.

"So all these people fought in previous Mortal Kombat tournaments?"

"Each and every," the ninja said. "And even more, they all fought in the same great battles, and against the same insurmountable odds. They were all warriors from the different generations and even more interesting, their deeds against the dark forces have been documented and remembered above and beyond all others in any previous Mortal Kombat."

He stopped by one; a male, dressed in a light jacket, baggy pants and boots, armed with a hooked sword, and with other odd addition; around his head was a garish helmet-like mask, with a tube that led to a small oxygen tank attached to his belt; a respirator perhaps.

Sonya stepped in front of Hydro and took a closer look at the front of the statue.

"You already know his name, don't you?" Hydro asked.

"Yes, he once rescued me from the Black Dragon. He is Kabal."

Sonya reached up and touched the hands, and ran his fingers down it. A thin lather of dust rubbed off onto her fingertips.

Hydro walked past a few more and stopped at one more, another male, dressed like a twentieth century riot control officer, complete with gun and baton. And just for a touch of style, a baseball cap put on backwards.

Sonya walked towards the statue.

"Curtis Stryker," she said. "Is he and Kabal...?"

"Yes." Hydro replied.

Suddenly, a cold wind blew past Sonya. She covered her bare shoulders with her arms. Hydro meanwhile stopped what he was about to say; he sensed danger.

"What's wrong, Hydro?" Sonya asked.

"Something's not right." Hydro replied.

"And that they are, Hydro." A voice erupted.

Hydro whirled around, to see a ninja, dressed in a sleeveless top. His top had a black V inset and a blue over lay. He wore a blue belt with a loincloth hanging down from the belt. His pants were skin tight, black in the front and blue at the back. He also wore metal arm guards, they were blue on the top and black at the bottom, he also wore metal shin guards, also blue. He wore black boots, which blend in with the pants. He stood straight, arms at his sides, fists compacted tightly, eyes half-closed and looking at Hydro with a rather evil stare.

Hydro's eyes widened, as he saw his former friend.

"Sub-Zero, how nice of you to join us." Sonya replied, smiling at the ninja. She began walking where the ninja stood.

"No wait, it's not what it seems." Hydro pulled Sonya back.

"But Hydro, it's Sub-Zero." Sonya replied.

"That, you wish, Sonya Blade." The ninja smirked.

Hydro meanwhile, shifted into a fighting stance. The ninja then jumped off the ground, flipped expertly through the air and landed in front of Hydro, so four feet away. "Sonya! Get out of here!" Hydro shouted.

"But..."

"Don't argue, woman! Go!"

Sonya turned around and began to run, but stopped as she saw three other ninjas coming at her from the opposite direction. She looked back and forth, as they kept getting closer and closer, and readied themselves to get her.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 18

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

"You will never take her, Sub-Zero. I gave my word to bring her back alive and I will die with that promise." Hydro yelled.

"You and your pathetic honour." Sub-Zero laughed. "She will be made a prisoner for Shao Kahn for interfering in this tournament."

"Over my dead body!" Hydro spat.

"That's my point, dear friend." Sub-Zero laughed again.

Suddenly, Sub-Zero did a roundhouse, kicking Hydro in the face. Hydro was knocked backwards, hitting a statue behind him. He quickly got up to face his opponent. Sub-Zero kicked. Blocked. Hydro punched. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched twice. Blocked. Hydro punched twice, then kicked. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched to the face, then kicked to the stomach, to the face, then did a roundhouse. Hydro ducked under the roundhouse, rolled to the right, then kicked Sub-Zero in the ribs. Sub-Zero stumbled backwards. Hydro kicked to the stomach, then punched. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked. Blocked. Hydro punched twice. Blocked. Sub-Zero did a double-roundhouse.



Ducked. Sub-Zero then kicked Hydro in the knee, forcing to kneel. The ice ninja then kicked him in the face. Hydro was knocked onto his back, and Sub-Zero attempted to jump-kick him. Hydro rolled to the left to avoid him, then swept the ninja off his feet. He then attempted to drive his foot into the ice warrior's chest. Sub-Zero rolled out of the way and got up.

Meanwhile, Sonya ran in the opposite direction, away from the three ninjas, but stopped as she saw four more ninjas coming at her from the opposite direction.

Finally, as they were about to get in reaching distance, Sonya whirled around and performed a full 360-degree roundhouse kick. Three of the ninjas were knocked to the ground, but the other four ducked the attack and continued their approach. Two of them hit her in the back, sending her to her knees. One of the two in front kicked her in the face, then the other one did the same. Sonya was sent onto her back. The two behind then grabbed her by the arms and hoisted her back onto her feet.

One of the ninjas approached her. "Lieutenant Sonya Blade, Onero will be pleased."

Meanwhile, in the statuary garden. The fight between Sub-Zero's brother and Hydro continued. Hydro kicked. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked. Dodged. Sub-Zero punched twice. Blocked. Hydro punched, but Sub-Zero grabbed his arm, elbowed him in the chest, kned him in the stomach, and then flipped him onto his back.

Hydro, while still holding Sub-Zero's arm, pulled him over. The ninja rolled and got up. Hydro got up. Sub-Zero kicked. Blocked. Hydro punched. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked to the stomach, then to the face. Hydro stumbled backwards, while Sub-Zero ran forward and double-jump-kicked him. Hydro flew backwards and hit another statue. He got up and ran at Sub-Zero. He punched. Blocked. Hydro punched twice. Blocked. Sub-Zero then grabbed the front of Hydro's shirt and lifted him off the ground.

"Pathetic and weak!" Sub-Zero taunted.

Sub-Zero quickly punched Hydro in the face four times, then shifted his body around, then punched again. Hydro was knocked onto the ground. He got up and punched. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked twice, then did a roundhouse. Blocked. Hydro kicked. Blocked. Sub-Zero punched twice, then upper-cutted Hydro in the face. Hydro stumbled backwards.

Sub-Zero narrowed his eyes on Hydro, then shot his right arm out towards his former friend. A thick stream of blue energy flew forth, through the air, and struck the ground right in front of Hydro's feet. The ground there covered itself in a sheet of ice, then shattered, in a spray of crystallized water and flailing mist.

The shock of the blast sent Hydro on his back. He wearily got up, and fell to one knee.

Sub-Zero walked up to him, chuckling evilly. He kicked him in the face, and Hydro fell backwards. He then got up, and kicked. Blocked. Sub-Zero kicked twice to the face, then punched three times. Hydro stumbled backwards more. Sub-Zero punched him in the stomach, followed by an uppercut. Hydro flew backwards and hit a statue, breaking it on impact, he lay motionless.

Sub-Zero walked to the body, then stopped and kicked the body over.

"Dead." Sub-Zero said.

He then turned around and walked towards the group at the entranceway.

Finally, the two ninjas in front of Sonya went to the side as Sub-Zero came in and stood before her.

Sub-Zero lifted Sonya's head up with his hand. "Lieutenant Sonya Blade," he said. "Do you regret now where your need has led you?"

Sonya looked at Sub-Zero with hatred. "I regret nothing!" she spat.

Sub-Zero smiled, underneath his garish mask. "Your spirit does you credit."

Sub-Zero then let go his hand, dropping Sonya's head. "Well done my brothers, Onero will be pleased."

Onero sat on his thrown, taking a sip of wine. Two guards approached him, dragging a prisoner with them. They dropped the prisoner in front of Onero's feet and backed off towards the entrance.

Sonya wearily looked up, to see Onero standing before her.

"What am I doing here!" she demanded.

"Ever the inquiring lieutenant, eh, Ms. Blade?" Onero said, putting his cup down.

Sonya bit her lip.

"You knew better than to interfere in this tournament, yet you interfere anyway. Onero looked at Sonya "What do you have to say about your actions?"

"I have nothing to say, to you!" Sonya narrowed her eyes.

"I see." Onero cocked his head.

"I answered your question. What about mine?" Sonya spat.

Onero narrowed his eyes at her. "Have a care, woman. A little defiance can be charming. Too much can cost you dearly."

Sonya looked down.

"But the answer is an alchemy of the soul." Onero said. "As ancient scholars could change the nature of base lead into purest gold... so have I mastered the art to transform my body into that of any wild beast?"

"What the hell are you talking about?" Sonya asked. "Nothing that you shall understand, dear Sonya," Onero stepped closer toward her. "I am giving you a chance to behold great power, to rule as my bride."

"In your dreams." Sonya spat.

"Sonya, my sweet Sonya, are you telling me you would rather suffer along these pathetic mortal's than to have great power?"

"You damn right."

"Then you give me no further choice. You'll be a slave to Shao Kahn, a sex slave nonetheless."

"I would rather die!" she yelled.

"And you will, if you do not please him."

Onero then snapped his fingers, summoning the guard's.

"Just remember, Sonya." Onero turned around, and sat in his thrown. "In the dark days to come, remember that things could have gone differently. That you once had the choice to behold great power, but now that opportunity is gone forever."

The guard's roughly forced her up, and pushed her towards the door.

Hydro slowly and wearily got up, his mask ripped, blood stained.

He groaned, and shook off the tension of the blow Sub-Zero gave him. He kept his eyes shut. He opened them, but very slowly, each second filled with pain.

"I have failed in my duty."

"This is not about blame." A strange and unfamiliar voice said.

Hydro looked up. There, a dark figure stood, he could barely see the figure, but as his vision came back, he saw that the figure was dressed in all black.

"Noob Saibot?" Hydro asked.

"No, I am not he. I am Dusk."

Hydro wearily stood up. Dusk helped stabilize him.

"Your Smoke's brother?" Hydro said. "Yes, how did you know?" Dusk asked.

"He told me."

"Is he here?"

"Yes, back at my chamber."

"I'll take you back there. You need help."

"Thank you." Hydro replied.

As Dusk tried to get a better grip, he realized Hydro was badly injured in the side. He placed Hydro's arm over his neck, and they began to walk out of the garden.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 19

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

After half an hour walking and sweating, Dusk and Hydro finally arrived at the others. Dusk opened the door. The room was empty.

"The rooms empty?" Dusk said.

"Yeah weird, they're probably at the beach, training," Hydro said. "Help me at my bunk ,will you."

"So, this is where you and the other's stay?" Dusk replied.

"Well, it's not much, but it's a lot better considering the rooms the others are staying in." Hydro responded.

Dusk couldn't but help noticing Hydro's two swords on his back.

"May I see it?" Dusk said, extending his hand. "Your swords."

After some minor hesitation, Hydro reached at his back, and pulled a sword from its holster. He then twirled the sword around and held it forward, handle first. Dusk took hold and removed it from Hydro's



grasp, and examined it closely. As he saw the light reflect off the blade while he held it.

He finished his inspection of the weapon, and his grey eyes swivelled towards Hydro again.

"It's a magnificent blade." He said, as he handed it back to him; Hydro took it without hesitation, and slipped it back in its holster.

Hydro took a wet piece of cloth, and placed it on his wound.

Sonya sat quietly in a jail cell, cut off by three black stonewalls and an iron-barred door, looking down at the floor beneath her. Right in front of her feet, a small cockroach slowly crawled past, wiggling its antennae back and forth as it crept by. Sonya backed off, grimacing at its site.

'Subsy is such a gentle man,' she thought. 'And yet he has so many enemies.'

Suddenly, Onero slowly walked in front of the iron door, and stared in at Sonya on the inside of the cell.

Sonya got up from her seat, and charged at Onero, grabbed the bars and leaned up against the door.

"My friend's will come for me!" Sonya yelled.

"My Sonya, such haste," Onero smiled; he stood with his hands behind his back "I give you one final chance, Sonya. Rescue yourself from torture and join me."

"Fuck off" Sonya yelled.

"As you wish," Onero said. "But remember Sonya, too much desire can kill."

"And how's the prisoner doing?" a tall man entered in a long, purple cloak.

"Still stubborn." Onero answered.

Sonya looked at the newcomer, his face covered in a hood, displaying two glowing eyes.

"And here I thought I was supposed to be the arrogant one," Ja'kaar said. "She's indeed beautiful. Her face is flawless. Sub-Zero is a lucky man, I envy him."

Sonya looked at Ja'kaar. "Please, just let me walk out of here. This is stupid. My friends are going to find me, I know they will."

Ja'kaar smiled underneath his hood. "My child... that is the whole idea."

"Hydro's been gone for an hour now," Rain said. "Should we get back?" Sub-Zero stared out at sea, then turned to Rain.

"I think we should get back," Sub-Zero replied. "Smoke, you coming?"

Smoke stood on a high rock, looking at the waves. "Yeah, I'm coming." He somersaulted off the edge of the rock.

Sub-Zero turned around and walked toward the mountain, the other two followed him.

"So why did you led Kahn's army against Zah, anyway?" Hydro asked.

"I was the Brothers greatest warrior, and individually I was chosen to lead Kahn's army." Dusk explained.

"And he sent his assassins to destroy you?" Hydro said.

"Yes, he learnt that I was to become one of the chosen one's, and had the key to lead to his destruction.',

Hydro wanted to ask another question, but the door at that moment opened. Someone was coming in. Dusk looked alert; he stood in a fighting stance.

As the figure came around the door, Rain jumped back, and quickly shifted in a fighting pose.

Smoke slammed the rest of the door opened, and his eyes widened.

"Dusk?" he said.

Dusk relaxed his body. "Smoke?"

"Well, it isn't Jackie Chan!" Smoke spouted.

Dusk walked up to Smoke, and gave him a hug; he then backed off.

"Smoke, I can't believe it's you," Dusk said. "It's been 200 years, since I last saw you."

"Right back at you," Smoke replied. "What are you doing here?"

"Me?" Dusk responded. "What are you doing here?"

"Probably the same as you," Smoke said. "Saving our realm."

"You haven't changed a bit since I last saw you?" Dusk replied.

Smoke smiled and laughed under his breath. "What did you expect?" he said. "Horrible, hideous scars etched across my face?"

"Something like that," Dusk responded. "But to tell you the truth, I would have been more satisfied if you were scarred or something like that. At least that might have given me an explanation to why you left the Brothers and joined the Lin Kuei. But seeing you like this... your normal."

"Dusk, I hate to tell you, but none of us is normal," Smoke said. "And I have my reasons for working with the Lin Kuei, just like you have your reasons for the choices you've made in the past."

"True," Dusk said. "But I haven't signed on with a bunch of borderline maniacs and murderers."

"Don't play holier-than-thou with me, Dusk" Smoke replied.

Hydro stood from his bunk. "Now, Smoke, Dusk," He looked at them as he said their names. "This is no way for brothers to behave. Especially if they didn't see each other for 200 years."

Smoke and Dusk looked down, realizing his right. "He's right, Smoke. I'm sorry."

"No, it's not you, it's my fault," Smoke said. "Anyway, I left the Lin Kuei."

"So you do have some sense." Dusk responded.

The argument began again for some time, until Sub-Zero walked in too see the two arguing.

"Smoke and Dusk stopped their arguing and looked at Sub-Zero.

"Dusk, this is Sub-Zero. The one you fought this morning." Smoke said, looking at Sub-Zero.

"Dusk?" Sub-Zero said, exchanging a hearty handshake. "It's an honour to meet you, before starting it in a battle."

Dusk smiled underneath his garish mask; he seemed embarrassed. "Sorry about this morning, I didn't recognize you without your uniform," Dusk then pointed at his own face. "And sorry about the kick in the face."

"Apology accepted." Sub-Zero replied, he then noticed something was wrong.

He turned his head towards Hydro. "Hydro, where's Sonya?"

Hydro dropped his head towards the ground, and sighed. "She was kidnapped by Onero." "What?" Sub-Zero snapped.

"I tried everything in my power to stop them. We were ambushed, and she was taken."

"This is not your fault. The ambush was unexpected, and you tried your best to stop them" Sub-Zero said.

"That's not all," Hydro responded. "Your brother, is resurrected."

Sub-Zero's eyes widened as he heard this.

"Crafty son of a bitch." Smoke intervened.

"My brother?" Sub-Zero said. "Yes, Onero changed him, somehow. He is more evil than ever before."

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 20

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEIN (SUB-ZERO) KLOPPER

"Talk to me! Why won't you say something?" Sonya yelled, from behind the bars of the prison to a guard standing at the entrance. "Just say something! I'm going to get out of here and the only way you can stop me is to kill me!"

The masked guard turned his head towards the cell. "Don't be so quick to die, Sonya Blade. Your time of slavery is almost upon you to serve our glorious emperor." "The blazes I will!" Sonya yelled, looping her arms through the bars.

"Speak not in haste, my dear. Consider the alternative. The clock is running, Sonya Blade. Time is short." The guard then once again fell silent.

"I'm going after Sonya." Sub-Zero said to the others.

"How?" Hydro asked. "We don't even know where your brother took her."

Sub-Zero smiled, and turned his head towards the wall.



"There's a passageway on the other side of this wall," he said.

"How can you tell?" asked Rain.

"I developed some interesting surveillance methods when I still was in the Lin Kuei," Sub-Zero explained. "When Smoke and Dusk were talking, I studied the walls, and found a secret entranceway."

"So, is there anything going on in there?" Smoke asked.

"A group of guards walked by about five minutes ago," he said. "They were talking about the battles which occurred on this island. Another group came by just a minute ago, they were talking about someone named Ja'kaar, then walked off..." Sub-Zero pointed his finger towards the right side of the wall. "That way."

"And you heard all that?" Smoke asked.

"Well... Actually, some of it was a lucky guess." Sub-Zero replied.

"Yes, but we don't even know how to get to that passage," Dusk said. "We can't go through the wall!"

Sub-Zero gave Dusk a snide smile from beneath his mask, then completely turned from the four of them and faced the wall. He closed his eyes, and put his hands together.

Dusk wondered what Sub-Zero was planned to do, and turned towards Smoke. "What is he doing?" he asked...

"I could tell you, but if you wait a few more seconds, you'll see for yourself." Smoke said.

Sub-Zero concentrated his energies, and slowly spread his hands apart, while an icy blue mist emanated from his fingers, and from the pores in his hands. When he build up enough energy, he turned his forward and placed his palms against the face of the wall. He forced harder, and a crackling sound began to ring out.

Then, from where his hands were placed, thin streams of ice started to form, outlining out large blocks of stone in the wall, arranged in a brick wall pattern. As the ice spread, it solidified and cracked, until a large like the ice made doorway, large enough for five people to walk through one by one. Sub-Zero stayed where he was while he heard the ice crack. Then, as soon as the crackling stopped, Sub-Zero whirled around and kicked the wall, knocking out all the newly made blocks, forming a gaping hole.

Dusk's eyes widened at what he saw. Smoke looked at him and chuckled.

Sub-Zero turned around to face the others.

"If you don't want any part of this," Sub-Zero said. "You're free to stay here."

"I will die helping you!" Hydro yelled.

"I will go with you and fight at your side, Sub-Zero." Rain said, bowing.

"I'm in!" Smoke yelled. "After all you once risked your life helping me, now it's time to return the favour.'"

The four looked at Dusk.

"Count me in too." He said.

"You're all true friends," Sub-Zero nodded at them. "But first I need to do something."

Sub-Zero walked through the four. The other's turned their heads as he walked by them. He grabbed his backpack, reached in and grabbed a container full of red paint. He then reached in with two fingers and smeared the red paint over his right eye. He then turned around, and faced the others.

"Ready." He said.

The five found themselves roaming a massive maze of tunnels within the mountain. Torches lit the way in many areas, but others were pitch-black, so a torch had to be taken with from one of the previous areas. Eventually, they had no idea where they were.

"I told you we should have taken that left turn," Smoke complained.

"You said to take the right turn!" Hydro replied.

"I know, but I figured you'd take the left one just to argue with me," Smoke said. "If I said to take the right one, you'd have taken the left one! But you took the right one like I said to, and that's why we're lost!" "What!" Hydro snapped. "You're the one who said to take the right turn!"

"You're the one who listened to me!"

"Shut up, the both of you!" Dusk said, who was behind Sub-Zero that took the lead. "We're lost in the middle of a mountain in the middle of god knows where, with no idea where we're going. The last thing we need to argue about is who got us lost and when we got lost!"

They both agreed.

"And besides, it is Smoke's fault for saying to take the right tunnel."

The arguing did continue for some time.

The group made their way through the tunnels, until they suddenly heard a random echo of voices coming from the cavern ahead of them. All of them stopped to listen. They couldn't make any actual words. "What is it Sub-Zero?" Dusk asked.

"Onero." He said.

They listened more carefully, it definitely was Onero's voice, and it was most definitely coming from ahead of them.

"Let's go!" Sub-Zero cried.

Sub-Zero dropped the torch and ran off. In surprise, the other four followed behind him. He ran until he came to an open passage in the cavern, but came to a screeching halt at what was seen on the opposite side. Hydro came ahead of the others, but he could not pass, Sub-Zero shot out his arm and stopped him, allowing him to get a look as well. The others stopped behind Sub-Zero. However, Smoke ran past Sub-Zero, allowing him to only call after him.

"Smoke, wait!"

"What?" Smoke called.

Smoke suddenly felt nothing under his feet, and he started descending downward at a high velocity. He started screaming, but both the scream and his rapid descent were ended when Sub-Zero kneeled to the ground and grabbed Smoke by the wrist.

Smoke stared up at Sub-Zero in surprise, then rolled his head in the opposite direction, and broke the one rule that must be followed when someone has saved your life in such a fashion; he looked downward.

Below him was a massive canyon within the mountain, at least three miles deep, with a circumference of at least 100 feet. In several areas, there were long, narrow bridges stretching across the gap, located between different entrances and exits to the cave. Once Sub-Zero pulled the still-screaming Smoke up, it was revealed they were in fact on one of these narrow bridges.

"Yikes!" was the only thing Smoke had to say.

"Watch your step Smoke, these bridges looks unfit for human contact." Sub-Zero said.

"We wouldn't want the littlest of the team to fall down and go boom..." Hydro said, sarcastically.

Smoke narrowed his eyes at Hydro. "Who the hell did the interior decorating in this place?" Smoke asked.

"Someone with little sense of style," Sub-Zero replied. "I can still hear those voices this way, but watch your step."

Sub-Zero carefully walked across the bridge, with Dusk, Hydro, Rain and Smoke following behind. Smoke was of course extra cautious, especially after his near-death experience just now.

They exited the canyon room and continued through another series of tunnels. However, it led them to an unfamiliar place; a temple, they were in a large temple.

"What the hell..." Sub-Zero said. "How did we end up here?"

"Now who got us lost?" asked Smoke.

They were in a large temple, at least as big as two large grass fields put together. Pillars of rock surrounded the perimeter of the room, excluding the door on both sides of it. On several platforms around the pillars, countless candles were set up and were burning brightly.

They walk into the room. It was empty and silent, except for the crackling of the torches. They were the only ones here, or at least so they thought.

Suddenly, a figure somersaulted from out of nowhere, and stood in the middle of the room.

The figure narrowed his hypnotic gaze on the fighters, and tightened his fists.

"Brother?" Sub-Zero's eyes widened.

"Your brother is no more," the figure replied. "I have a new family now, Onero is my new father!"

"No," Sub-Zero replied. "I am your family."

The figure narrowed his gaze. "Bad blood!"

"I will not fight you, brother" Sub-Zero said.

"Then my victory is all the sweeter," the brother replied. "Promise me you will at least scream when I tear your heart from your chest." He then shifted his body in a fighting stance.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 21

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEINOUS HEIN

Numerous images flashed through Sub-Zero's head - of happier times, dark times and sad times he shared with his brother. His brother was always there to comfort him when he felt down and to see the cold, dark look in his brother's eyes broke Sub-Zero's heart completely. .

"He's only one Sub-Zero, "Smoke said. "Together with me, Hydro, Dusk and Rain we can beat him.,

"No." Sub-Zero returned. "This is my fight Smoke. You and the others go look for Onero and Sonya".

"You sure?" Smoke asked. "I mean I know he's your brother and all but he could be too much for you, even with your new fighting abilities..."

"I said GO!" Sub-Zero shouted.

Dusk placed his hand on Smoke's shoulder. "He 'll be fine, brother. It's all about honour.,

Smoke narrowed his eyes and then sighed. "Try not to get killed buddy, I'd hate to tell Sonya you're playing harps up there in heaven."



With that he turned and along with the others ran towards the exit.

"Is this Hallmark moment over already?" the older sibling shouted. "Good. For a while there I would've saved you trouble and killed myself"

The younger sibling turned around toward his older sibling. "I will not fight you brother.,,"

"Fine, suit yourself 'brother'" the older Sub-Zero replied. "I will just kill you easier then!"

He then attacked without any hesitation. Sub-Zero reacted just as quickly-

The older sibling started off with several punches, followed by two kicks. Blocked .He continued with two more punches, a double-roundhouse, and a mid-air spinning kick. Sub-Zero blocked the ground moves, and ducked the final kick after landing, the older one jumped into the air and kicked out both feet at his younger brother's chest! Sub-Zero grabbed both the ninja's feet, and held them tightly underneath his arms. He then let himself fall backwards, meanwhile, tossing the older brother over his head by his shins! The older Sub-Zero flew forward, but landed on his hands and sprung back on his feet almost instantly! As soon as the younger Sub-Zero got back up his brother attacked, and kicked him in the face.

Meanwhile, Smoke, Dusk, Hydro and Rain found themselves in a huge arena after taking several wrong turns. The arena floor is a mosaic of stones, at the centre of which a design of black onyx reveals the Mortal Kombat emblem. The room was lit brightly by several torches along the wall, and a border of flames along the back.

"This could be the place the final battle takes place?" Hydro said.

"You think?" Smoke snapped.

Just then, a large stone slab was extended from the roof in the centre of the slab, draped with black chains and hanging downward as gravity pulled at her, was Sonya Blade. Although, she has not been physically harmed, her clothes were torn to shreds and she appeared to be out cold.

"Sonya!" Smoke yelled as the huge stone slab came to a complete halt at the arena floor.

Just then a bird flew in from the roof. A bird to be precise was a falcon. The falcon landed on the floor next to Sonya and began to change into a humanoid figure. As the transformation completed, Onero turned around to face the three former Lin Kuei students and the Brotherhood warrior.

"You four has been a thorn in my side for far too long!" Onero accused the four ninjas and pointing at them.

Just then three large doors opened and a brigade of ninjas armed with swords ran forward towards the four unsuspecting heroes.

Meanwhile, Sub-Zero still managed to block his sibling attacks that were thrown at him.

"Feeble." The older Sub-Zero replied. "You are a disgrace for the Lin Kuei. I thought I taught you better?"

The young Sub-Zero was huffing and puffing of the repeated blows he received and just then a voice appeared in his head. It was the voice of his brother long ago...

"Remember who you are brother. You are a member of the Lin Kuei and even when faced with incredible odds or whomever stands in your way to do the thing you know is right, dispose of that person, even if that person is me. "

Sub-Zero closed his eyes tight as the words ran through his head over and over again. Suddenly his eyes shot open as his brother's advice made sense.

He then looked up toward his 'brother' and stood straight fists compacted tightly, His irises almost seemed to glow as if a storm enveloped inside.

"You are not my brother." Sub-Zero spoke. "My brother had honour and dignity, the two things " you lack most.

The older 'Sub-Zero' yelled and then continued his onslaught with a series of punches and kicks, all blocked. The younger sibling finally retaliated with a kick to the face, followed by two more to the chest and stomach! The older Sub-Zero went backwards from the hit to the chest, then hunched over from the blow to the stomach!

"So, you do have some fight in you..." The older sibling smirked.

The younger Sub-Zero whipped up his fist and uppercut the ninja in the face, sending him onto his back!

Smoke ducked when he saw the sword coming straight at him! The long blade sliced right through the brick wall, taking a huge chunk out of it. While the ninja was distracted by the debris, Smoke rolled behind him and swung his fist at the ninja's back, breaking it by impact.

Meanwhile, Hydro exchanged several quick steel blows with his opponent, Hydro made a high attack and his opponents swords interlocked over both their heads, forcing them to look each other each in the eye...

Rain kicked his opponent in the chest, sending him sailing into the wall behind him. Rain then came at him head-on and lifted him by the neck and with a quick snap broke the ninja's neck.

Dusk ducked the first attack from his opponent's sword as it punctured the wall behind him. The ninja tried in

vain in pulling his weapon out of the concrete wall when Dusk kicked at the arm, landing the toe of his boot underneath the elbow. The ninja grunted in pain as the force of the blow broke his arm.

Meanwhile. The battle between the brothers continued in another room. The older brother rolled out of the way as his younger sibling attempted to stomp on him. As he rolled, he whipped out his foot and struck Sub-Zero in the face, sending him spinning around. Once on his feet again, the older Sub-Zero kicked at his brother's back and sent him stumbling right into a post! While the younger one had the wind knocked out of him, the older brother started forward to continue his attack, but before he reached him, the younger sibling grabbed the post and jumped off the floor, whirled around and kicked his brother in the chest with both feet! Sub-Zero stumbled backwards, while his brother started his next attack. He ran forward and jumped into the air, hitting the ninja twice with a double air kick! He landed and followed with a kick to the side, and another to the face. Blocked. He performed a roundhouse, followed by a stylish spinning kick, Ducked. He followed with another roundhouse, and hit his brother in the face! Sub-Zero followed with another kick to the face as his brother spun around from the blow. The older Sub-Zero wobbled a little, stunned, and then ducked as he saw the younger Sub-Zero come at him with a jump kick! He landed, while the older one backed away and started his next attack. The younger Sub-Zero whirled around and saw his brother with his hands in front of him, positioned in a prayer-like fashion. Sub-Zero knew what his brother was planning to do as he felt the room grow cold.

Small particles of ice formed around his brother and small sparks of crystallized ice erupted in the air between his palms, and grew to a basketball-sized ball of ice! He then shot his hands upward and sent the ice ball into the air like a cannonball, sending it straight at him! The younger Sub-Zero jumped and flipped off the floor behind his brother, just as the ball of ice impacted on the floor and a huge sheet of ice spread around the part it made impact.

Hydro beheaded a ninja with one swipe of his sword, but as he did this another ninja approached him, however he could sense this and grabbed for the other sword from his back, whirled around and with a stylish twirl brought the two blades together and ran them simultaneously through the unfortunate ninja's neck! The head flew off and the body dropped onto its stomach.

Dusk and Smoke found themselves in a predicament, back to back.

"So how many did you kill, brother?" Dusk asked.

"Me? About seventeen. How about you?"

"Twenty-four"

"WWII? I think you kill more ninjas by accident than I do on purpose."

Just then two ninjas stormed at the two brothers, however both ducked and the ninjas kicked each other. As they lay on the floor, Smoke and Dusk

simultaneously dropped their hands on each ninja's neck for the finishing blow.

The ninja almost took Rain's head off with a clothesline punch, however, Rain ducked and dodged behind the ninja's back, waited for him to turn around, then juttet a hard kick right into his face, breaking his jaw on impact. One by one the ninjas fell as the four ninja warriors stampeded through them.

"Enough!" Onero hollered. "I can see this is getting nowhere. There is a lot of anger in this room... „

"No Shit. Smoke said.

"Silence!" Onero yelled. "You Smoke have a big mouth on you. Allow me to silence you once and for all!",

With that Onero charged at the four ninjas and began attacking Smoke. He continued with a roundhouse kick, followed by another of the same type He finished the opening attack with a jumping scissors kick to the jaw. The blow forced Smoke back, he then yelled and all four ninjas started attacking the grandmaster.

The older Sub-Zero attacked with a kick to the face, but the younger ducked, spun around on the floor, and swept the ninja off his feet and onto his back! He then rolled over and swung his foot over, hitting his older brother in the stomach! The older sibling let out a loud "OOF!" then grabbed the leg and threw it off him, sending the younger Sub-Zero rolling over. The older Sub-Zero got onto one knee and pulled himself up; he turned around and faced his younger 'brother'.

The younger Sub-Zero backed away as he saw his older brother's eyes. It looked like a snow storm was brewing inside. The older Sub-Zero concentrated hard as waves of intense cold emanated from him like concentric ripples on a pond a frigid 'force field' began to expand as Sub-Zero concentrated hard. The ice shield began to grow even bigger as Sub-Zero brought his hands together.

Realizing what his brother was planning to do, the younger Sub-Zero also started to harness ice particles. It formed a huge glowing blue ball in his hand and without hesitation threw it at his 'brother'.

The ice hit the shield and froze it solid with his 'brother' still in it. Sub-Zero relaxed as he thought the match was over, but just as he was about to turn around, he heard ice cracking and he saw the huge ice block shatter into little crystallized ice shards. He covered his head and looked up again towards the shattered shield. Inside, breathing heavily was his 'brother'. He was standing up straight and looking at him with a rather evil stare Ice shards still fell off him as he began to walk forward, crunching the ice remains under his feet.

"You really thought you had me there, didn't you?" The older Sub-Zero smirked.

"You fool!" He shouted. "Liu Kang thought he won by trying the same tactic on me by throwing a bucket of water during the Mortal Kombat tournament that he failed to realize is that I can 't be killed by my own power.



The younger Sub-Zero then quickly summoned enough power to create a ball of ice and shot forth his right arm and sent off three ice spikes from his hand! The older Sub-Zero saw it coming just in time, and arched his back downward as the ice spikes went straight over his body and got impaled against a nearby wall.

Sub-Zero then lunged at his older brother who was preparing his own ice attack from his left hands. He grabbed his brother's fist, and as he did, a layer of ice spread forth and covered his entire forearm!

"However, mine does affect!" The younger Sub-Zero replied.

He then threw an uppercut and smashed his brother right in the face! He stumbled backwards, and the younger sibling rushed forward and tried to attack again! But the older one reached out and grabbed his young brother by the throat and held him up in the air.

"My dear 'brother'." The older Sub-Zero said. "For you to kill me you must become solid and if you become solid, you can be broken!"

The eldest Sub-Zero's hand then smashed out of the layer of ice. He then threw his younger brother away from him, through a nearby podium.

The younger Sub-Zero slowly got up and gasped for air, and he saw his brother again forming a large force of ice with the intent of freezing him solid!

The eldest shot the ball of ice forward, but at the time, the younger Sub-Zero concentrated his power; shot forth

both arms, and sent a large stream of icy energy spiralling from his hands! The two energies of ice met one another in mid-air. In a bright flash of light and energy, the two collided energies of ice exploded in a blast, sending ice shards everywhere and both brothers flying backwards!

Both jumped to their feet at once, then instantly the older Sub-Zero sprang off the ground, flipped through the air towards his younger sibling and kicked him with both feet as he came down. Sub-Zero got hit to the floor and as he attempted to get up, the older one kicked him non-stop. Finally, the younger one got hold of a foot and tossed his brother in the air, but the older one landed on his feet when he came down.

The older Sub-Zero almost took his younger sibling's head off with a mid-level spinning kick if it was not that the younger one ducked and rolled away. Once upright, he held his arms up in defence as his older brother attacked with a knife-like axe kick! The younger one grabbed onto the leg and tossed the older one backwards! But at the same time, the older Sub-Zero grabbed his sibling by the collar, and as he was being tossed backwards, he pulled the younger over and threw him over his head! The younger Sub-Zero landed on his back, and both fighters jumped onto their feet again! The eldest one punched twice, and then kicked to the head. Blocked, He followed by another roundhouse to the face the younger Sub-Zero ducked, then shot his fist into his brother's midsection, then again into his face! The older one stumbled backwards momentarily, and then ducked when he saw his brother rush forward with a spinning

kick! When they faced each again, the younger Sub-Zero followed with a fast double kick. The older Sub-Zero blocked the first, but the second hit him in the chest and sent him stumbling backwards. The younger one continued his assault with five rapid-fire punches, then a powerful kick to the face! The older brother blocked the punches, but the kick connected and stunned him temporarily. The younger sibling tried another roundhouse, but the older one again managed to dodge it. The younger Sub-Zero finally stopped his spin, standing with his back to his brother. He instantly jumped forward, landed on his hands, and swung his feet overhead, kicking his brother in the face with both legs! The ninja stumbled backward again. Finally, the younger Sub-Zero rushed forward while his older brother was incapacitated, and jutted out his right leg, striking him right in the chest, and sent him flying backwards, right into another podium fifteen feet away!

The younger Sub-Zero ran at him and leapt towards him! The older Sub-Zero saw him coming, and as the younger one was about to land on him, he held up his legs in defence, held his hands in front of his chest, tossed him overhead, and at the same time, ignited an icy cold blast and sent his younger brother not only flying, but SOARING through the air! The younger Sub-Zero flailed his arms and legs as he went backwards. He finally smashed into another podium, and fell downward with a loud THUD! He looked upward towards his brother, who lifted his hands at his sides and small icy cold energy formed in the air around him. A small stream of ice then

exchanged itself between his palms several times, growing in size every time.

The young Sub-Zero wasn't one to use foul language, but at a time like this, the two words that escaped his mouth seemed appropriate...

"Oh shit!" Sub-Zero cried.

Then, the older Sub-Zero pointed his hands towards the younger sibling, and a massive stream of ice erupted from his hands and hurtled towards his direction.

In a frenzy, the young Sub-Zero concentrated his powers again, and held up both hands in defence, while still lying on the floor! Instantly, a large geyser of ice sprayed from his hands, shooting upward towards the ice stream! The two streams met in mid-air once again, but this time it didn't explode. No, this time it seemed the older Sub-Zero's power immediately seemed to overpower the younger Sub-Zero's power as the eldest ice spread over the young sibling's icy stream as it pushed toward the young Sub-Zero! The young brother was engulfed in his own icy power, just as the older ~~ero~~'s forced itself on top of him!

The ice spread across the floor like water as it continued its descent, then it dissipated completely. All that was left, besides the frozen ground, was what looked like the younger Sub-Zero, still lying on the floor, still holding up his hands, but frozen solid!

The older Sub-Zero smiled under his mask. "Poor little brother," He said. "It looked like the older and wiser man won this round.,,

He walked toward the ice statue, whirled around and gave it a powerful roundhouse kick towards the torso and the frozen sibling shattered instantly! The pieces flew in all directions, while the older Sub-Zero looked at what remained. Upon more thorough inspection, he lost his smile.

No blood! That and a large piece of the right arm that remained intact was hollow. His brother was not inside the statue when he destroyed it!

The older Sub-Zero cautiously looked all around him. No sign of his brother at all.

"I see I trained you well, young brother!" The older brother called out. "You are as skilled in the art of escape as I am!"

A swift, ice-cold breeze rushed past his neck

The older Sub-Zero whirled around and saw his younger brother flying towards him!

The young brother tackled his brother head-on, and they both landed hard on the floor and rolled across until the older sibling tossed his younger brother off of him! They both kept rolling, but then the older one got to one knee and instantly threw two shards of ice! The young Sub-Zero kept rolling so that he dodged it, and the ice shards went headlong into a stone wall and froze it all over! Once in the right position, the young Sub-Zero held out his arm, and a bolt of energy flew from his hands! While still on his knees, the older brother let himself fall backwards onto his back, and the bolt went straight over

him, freezing part of another wall and blowing out a large chunk of

. The older Sub-Zero got up and attacked. He rushed forward and kicked at his brother's head. Blocked. The younger brother got up and punched twice, following with a double roundhouse. Blocked and ducked. The older one jumped and kicked .Blocked. The younger one punched. Dodged. The older Sub-Zero punched three times, then kicked out his foot at his brother's stomach. The younger one grabbed his leg and twisted it around, sending his older brother spinning through the air. In mid-air, the older Sub-Zero whipped out his foot and slashed his brother across the face! The younger Sub-Zero went rolling onto his back, while his brother landed acrobatically on his feet!

The young Sub-Zero let himself roll over several times, meanwhile creating a build-up of ice in his right hand. He finally got back up onto one knee, then shot out his hand, and sent a barrage of ice spikes hurtling towards his brother. His brother simply dodged out of the way, while the spikes stayed in flight, then half buried themselves in the wall behind him!

The two warriors then charged at each other, and lashed out at the same time! The younger attacked first with a double-armed punch, but the older brother countered by grabbing onto both fists and holding tightly.

From the young Sub-Zero's hands shot sparks of blue light as he tried to repel to his evil brother. At the same time, more sparks of icy blue energy came from the older

brother's hands as he too tried to force his opponent back the room became illuminated in a bright blue before anything happened. Suddenly, the sparks from the older Sub-Zero's fists increased in size and strength, and he began to force his younger sibling downward! The young Sub-Zero struggled as best he could, but it seemed he was no match for his brother's power. He eventually worked the young brother down to one knee, and they still looked each other in the eyes.

The fight seemed to belong to the older and stronger Sub-Zero.

The young Sub-Zero started groaning loudly, and sparks from his hands as well began to grow. The older one lost his confident stare, especially when his young brother began to rise from the floor and stood on his feet again! The young Sub-Zero was yelling as he concentrated on overpowering his brother, while the sparks coming from his hands grew even larger than his brother's! He finally was at his brother's level again, and he spread out his arms to distract any attempt to strike from his older brother. He then shot his head forward and shot his older sibling right between the eyes!

Then, the young Sub-Zero ran forward and grabbed his opponent by the torso, and ran forward carrying him in his arms, heading straight for the ice spikes still stuck in the wall! Then, he reached the wall with a head-on collision, sending his brother smashing back-first into it! And as this happened, the sick, nauseating sound of something sharp stabbing its way through human flesh was heard.

The older Sub-Zero had been impaled upon the wall!

But the young Sub-Zero wasn't done yet. He placed his hands on his brother's chest, again concentrating his power, and forced icy energy through the ninja's body! The older brother didn't know what his younger sibling was doing, until he heard the sound of more flesh being torn. Then, with a small river of blood running down his body, each of the spikes grew out and shot completely through the older Sub-Zero's chest!

The ninja's eyes widened almost to the point of them popping out of his head. The young Sub-Zero backed away to see what he had done to his brother. The older brother looked down and saw several spikes protruding from his clothing, all stained red.

The older Sub-Zero looked back up at his younger sibling; he kept his distance, breathing rather heavily, both from the intensity of the battle, as well as the energy expanded from using his powers.

The older brother tried to get up and off the wall; to remove himself from the ice's deadly grip on his body. The young Sub-Zero couldn't help but feel sorry of his 'brother's' futile attempts to get free. The older Sub-Zero, able to do nothing, reached out towards his brother as if pleading for help, the arm dropped, the body went limp and the head simply swivelled to the side, the eyes with the same wide-open, shocked look. Sub-Zero was dead.



The young Sub-Zero started to advance forward towards his brother's lifeless form and placed his hand on his head.

"Now you can rest in peace my brothers" The young Sub-Zero replied. "You are free.

He ran his hand downward towards the eyes and as he swaged it downward, his brother's eyes automatically closed.

He turned around, sighed and left for the door, leaving the huge room that now looked like it got hit by a blizzard.

TO BE CONTINUED...

# MORTAL KOMBAT,

## PART 22

### CLASH OF THE CLANS

BY HEINOUS HEIN

Smoke and the other three lay on the ground, so badly beaten. Lesser men wouldn't have survived such an onslaught.

"You weak and pathetic fools!" Onero laughed. "You really thought you could beat me, even with all four of you, I remain victorious!"

"Is that all you can come up with?" Smoke groaned. "That cornball dialogue is as dead as the Macarena.,,

Smoke tried to get up but Onero pushed him down with his foot.

"Now where is your leader, Sub-Zero?.,

"He stopped to go to the bathroom," Smoke smirked in pain "So we went ahead of him.

"Stop with your foolish childlike jokes "Onero shouted and kicked Smoke in the stomach. "If he, by some miracle, survived my pawn of destruction, he will have to face me.

Onero turned his head toward Sonya, who was conscious now.

"You my dear will witness first-hand how I slaughter Sub-Zero's friends." Sonya narrowed her eyes at him.

After going through several tunnels, Sub-Zero heard distant shouting. He followed the voice and it became clear that it was his former grandmaster. The voice led to a big cavern and as he walked through the cavern it somehow evolved into a long hallway and now not one voice spoke, but two voices,

"You sanctimonious son of a bitch!" Sonya shouted at Onero as he kicked Hydro through the face. "You just touch one more hair on them and I'll..."

"Or you'll what? Onero taunted,, "Look at you; you are as powerless as a new-born baby,,

"However I am not!" a voice came from the main doorway.

All six of them turned their heads towards the entrance as they saw Sub-Zero standing right in the middle, fists balled tightly and awing Onero with a somewhat evil stare.

"Aaah! The ice ninja survived my bodyguard..." Onero laughed. "Too bad when you took the job to participate in this tournament, you didn't know you were signing your own DEATH WARRANTS!"

"You may save your hollow threats... Sub-Zero responded. "-for whomever greets you in the afterlife"

"Subsy!" Sonya yelled. "Carefully this guy has the ability to change into anything he wants!"

"I'm aware what he can do Sonya." Sub-Zero spoke, then turned his head towards Onero. "I have looked into the eyes of demons. I have seen nightmares come to life in human form. There are things in this world that makes me know fear, but you are not one of them"

"Bold words Sub-Zero." Onero responded, "Very bold indeed I will make sure to carve that onto your tombstone once I lower your casket into the grave."

"Sub, kick his ass!" Smoke yelled and then looked up towards Onero. "Hey Onero, before Sub kills you (cough!), can I have your computer when you dies?"

"Silence, you incompetent fool!" Onero yelled and kicked Smoke through the face.

"Okay, your game boy then." Smoke wiped the blood of his mask.

"Ready to die Sub-Zero?" Onero walked forward towards the middle of the arena.

"Not before you." Sub-Zero replied, also advancing toward the arena.

The two Lin Kuei s met in the middle. Onero reached around his back, grabbed his cloak and threw it away from him.

The two bowed at one another Sub-Zero then continued with a swift roundhouse kick, followed by another and as Onero blocked. Sub-Zero kicked him in the chest. The blow forced Onero back a few steps.

"What's wrong Onero? Smoke shouted from the distance as he and the others wearily got up. "Sub-Zero too much for you? My advice to you is to forget about this silly match, go home, order a pizza or two and catch up on your e-mails

"Quite, you fool!" Onero yelled.

"Try to keep your mouth shut until this match is over Smoke, "Hydro interrupted ."Sub-Zero needs all his concentration for this match.,,

Onero yelled and charged at Sub-Zero. Sub-Zero ran forward and threw up his arms just in time to block a rapid triple punch from Onero. He followed with a kick to the facer Blocked. He then whirled around and did a roundhouse. Sub-Zero ducked the kick, and as Onero faced forward again, he shot his fist upward and smashed him in the face with an uppercut! Onero stumbled backwards, while Sub-Zero ran forward and kicked again. Blocked. He punched twice. Blocked. He spun around and made a roundhouse. Ducked. Sub-Zero continued spinning until he stood with his back at c Onero, then kicked his foot backwards at him. Onero grabbed the foot and held onto it, then reached out and grabbed Sub-Zero by the neck, and pulled him into Sub-Zero then shot his head backwards and butted Onero in the face! He then jumped forward and performed a forward flip, kicking him in the face!

"Sub-Zero's totally kicking Onero's ass." Smoke talked to himself.

Onero stumbled a few feet backwards and yelled with frustration, He then ran at Sub-Zero.

Sub-Zero then twirled his arms around, while a blue mist trailed off his fingers. He then shot his right arm towards Onero, and a thick stream of thick blue energy flew forth and struck the ground right in front of Onero's feet! The ground then covered itself in a sheet of ice, and then shattered, in a spray of crystallized ice panicles.

The shock of the explosion sent Onero stumbling backwards again as he covered his face. As the mist dissipated, Onero looked up towards Sub-Zero.

"You think you have the upper hand Sub-Zero.?" Onero Smirked. "However, you are mistaken. Now let me show you what so few have witnessed."

Onero's entire body began shifting, bubbling and rippling. Sub-Zero slowly backed off, not at all liking where this was going.

"His transformation!" Hydro said. "Now will be the ultimate test."

"Test?" Sonya asked.

"Figure of speech, my dear." Hydro replied.

Onero's entire body suddenly began expanding and grew much TALLER, his skin also began forming into a

reptilian-like texture. Onero's head began changing as well.

His nose disappeared and his face grew outward into that of a crocodile of some sort. His arm grew outward and in a more muscular and powerful-looking. His right arm did the same, at the end of each arm was a massive hand, tipped with very nasty looking claws. His legs also grew more powerful as it grew outward with massive talons at the end of his feet. Onero's eyes stretched out and filled it with a reptilian-like eye. His teeth were sharpened to a razor-edge. And the last transformation occurred, as a massive tail sprouted out his backside.

"Wow!" Smoke gasped. "Now there is something you don't see every day! Only Onero would have a face not even a mother would love."

Sub-Zero's eyes widened as he saw this twenty-four foot dinosaur-like-creature hovering above him with burning rage.

As the transformation completed, Onero let out a gigantic roar, as Sub-Zero shifted his body into a fighting stance. Then, the massive creature advanced forward and hurled his huge tail towards Sub-Zero. The tail made impact and Sub-Zero was sent flying into a pillar!

The ice-ninja groaned as he fell to the floor as Onero advanced towards Onero then picked him up and tossed him several feet in the air, then punched him with his lower hand, sending him flying across the arena, hitting the other side of the wall, and falling to the floor. Sub-

Zero slowly got to his feet again, as Onero walked towards him.

He rushed at the ice ninja, and attempted to swipe him with a clawed hand. However, Sub-Zero ducked and dodged around as the hand went past him, spun around, and performed a kick to his ugly lizards faces head was snapped to the right, but was otherwise unaffected by the attack. Sub-Zero looked up in surprise as his attack proved ineffective against the beast.

"Subsy! Subsy! He's our man! If he can't do it... there's no point of me singing this!" Smoke shouted.

Dusk gave him a hard punch on the shoulder.

"Shush!"

Onero roared, then attempted to swat Sub-Zero. But as his hand went downwards, Sub-Zero jumped over it and sent the hand smashing into the arena floor. The ice ninja then used the hand as a stepping stone, and ran up his arm and over his shoulder, and, and as he jumped off Onero's back, kicked the beast in the side of the head. As Sub-Zero landed on his feet, Onero swung his tail around, but Sub-Zero somersaulted over it and as he landed, whirled around and send a stream of icy blue power straight at the ground before Onero. As Onero turned around to advance forward, he stepped on the sheet of ice and slipped, and fell through a pillar!

"Yeah Subsy!" Sonya yelled. "Kick the ugly brute's butt.

”



Smoke turned around and put a finger on his mask where the mouth would've been, and mentioned at Sonya... "Shush!"

As Onero got back up, he swung his claws around, the ice ninja dodged, ducked, or jumped over the attack. Finally, Onero hit him in the side with the left arm, and he flew backwards and landed on his back. Onero rushed at him and attempted to stomp on him with his foot. Sub-Zero fortunately rolled out of the way. The impact of Onero's foot sent chunks of concrete across the area.

Sub-Zero got to his feet, as Onero swung his fist around\* ducked it and Onero struck the pillar behind him! Sub-Zero delivered a kick to the ribs. The kick barely budged him at all, as he swung the same fist the other way and sent the ice ninja flying into another pillar on the other side. He fell forward and landed and landed on his stomach, as Onero made his way towards him.

"Sub-Zero is being hurled around like a ragged doll." Sonya said.

"And if they continue knocking these pillars down, they'll bury us all. " Rain said.

Onero grabbed Sub-Zero by the waist and smashed him on the floor several times, sending chunks of concrete spiralling everywhere. Onero then slammed his body against a wall, then threw him on the ground again on his back. Sub-Zero groaned as he attempted to get up off the ground, as Onero roared in triumph.

With that<sup>5</sup> Onero attempted to step on him again, but Sub-Zero rolled onto his back, and kicked both feet up just in time. He held the massive foot up with both feet, while meanwhile holding his hands up, and sending waves of cold waves of cold energy at it, covering the beast's entire leg in ice!

The beast stumbled backwards, and violently shook and chopped at his leg trying to get the ice off, <sup>b</sup>ut he heard a yell and was greeted with a right hook to the face! Sub-Zero delivered this attack, followed by a left punch, and followed that up with a roundhouse to the face. Onero stumbled backwards from the ice ninja's surprise attacks.

Onero then roared whirled around and swiped his claws at the ice ninja. Sub-Zero jumped over the attack. He swiped the other claw, but Sub-Zero ducked. Onero swiped twice, the ice ninja jumped back to avoid the attacks. Finally, the beast clapped his massive hands on Sub-Zero. The force of the attack sent the ice ninja stumbling onto his knees, groaning with pain. Onero then picked him up by the waist.

"You will never win!" Onero growled in a very dark and deep hiss.

Onero then slapped him across the face with his other hand, He then tossed the ice ninja across the arena again, towards one of the pillars!

As he flew through the air, Sub-Zero turned his body around, and rebounded off the pillar, and flew at Onero. The beast rushed at forward at him, then stopped as he saw the ice ninja's foot headed straight for him Sub-Zero

jumped-kicked him in the face, then rebounded off his head, and landed feet-first on the ground.

Onero stumbled backwards from the surprise attack, then rushed forward again and attacked. He swiped one claw. Sub-Zero jumped over it. Onero swiped the other claw. The ice ninja ducked. Finally, Onero let out a gigantic roar<sup>3</sup> then turned around and hurled his massive tail towards Sub-Zero. Sub-Zero jumped and back flipped out of the way, just as the tail smashed into another pillar and sent chunks everywhere!

Sub-Zero landed on his feet again, then ran forward and jump-kicked Onero in the face.

Onero's head shot backwards but as he turned around, he grabbed Sub-Zero by the waist and picked him off the ground and held him dangerously close to his razor sharp teeth. He growled viciously, while the ice ninja tried his best to get free of the beast's grasps. He looked up, and saw Onero staring straight in his face with his big yellow eyes. Suddenly, Sub-Zero jutted his hands forward, and released a hail of ice, which hit Onero right between the eyes! The ice spread over his entire forehead, and some of it went into his mouth. Startled by the icy attack, Onero dropped Sub-Zero on the ground and stumbled backwards as he tried to break the ice off his head. As he did, Sub-Zero balled his right fist and forced some of his ice powers into it. He let go a little, as a spear-shaped ice spear was formed.

As it completed, Sub-Zero whirled it around and stood in a fighting stance. Onero finally broke the ice off and in a

rage, ran at the ice ninja. Sub-Zero whirled the spear around as Onero approached him. As he got closer, the beast swiped his claws at his adversary, but Sub-Zero stuck the end of the spear in the ground and performed a no hands cartwheel, hitting Onero in the face. Onero stumbled backwards as Sub-Zero landed on his feet. Onero quickly recovered from the attack, and ran forward again. Sub-Zero whirled around and slashed the blade of the spear across the beast's face!

Onero screamed in pain as the side of his face was cut. Blood spilled and splattered on the ground.

Onero glared angrily at the ice ninja, and ran forward again. Sub-Zero slashed the spear several more times, but the beast dodged around them. Finally, he retaliated with two more slashes of his claws} But Sub-Zero dodged both of them, and stabbed the end of the spear into Onero's ribs! More blood splattered on the ground, and Onero screamed in pain again. He roared into the sky, then swiped the back of his claws around, and knocked Sub—Zero across the arena, making him lose his grip on the

Onero roared into the air again and ran at the ice ninja. As Sub-Zero got up and just in time dodged to the side as Onero slammed his claws into the ground. Onero attacked again and again, but the ice ninja dodged each one as best he could Onero swayed his tale around again and struck the ground! Sub-Zero ran up the tail, over his body and as Sub-Zero reached the head, flipped off and kicking him right between the eyes! Onero stumbled backwards and

fell through another pillar, as Sub-Zero flipped through the air and landed on his feet ten meters away.

Onero recuperated, swayed his head back and forth and glared at Sub-Zero, who suddenly saw his ice spear on the floor, and picked it up

Onero roared and rushed forward, when Sub-Zero changed his grip of the spear, and then HURLED it forward, sending it flying at Onero! It spun through the air, and impaled the beast through the chest! Onero screamed as even more blood was splattered on the floor and ripped the spear from his chest, and crushed it in his hands!

"So much for the weapon." Hydro said.

"Don't worry," Smoke replied. "He got plenty more where that came from."

Suddenly, Onero forward and grabbed the ice ninja again, hurled his body around and slammed him in the ground! As he rolled onto his back, Onero tried to stomp on him again. However, Sub-Zero saw it coming and rolled out of the way just in time.

But the tail of the beast contact as Onero hurled it and hit Sub-Zero,

The ice ninja once again flew through the air and went crashing through two pillars! Suddenly, rocks started to fall from the ceiling as the room began to grow unstable.

Sub-Zero stood up and looked around as he saw the rocks starting to fall.

"Hydro? Sub-Zero yelled, "Get Sonya down from that slab of rock and get out of here!"

Hydro approached the chains that held Sonya<sup>3</sup> grabbed his razor-sharp sword and hurled it down as the steel went right through the chains!

"Now go!" Sub-Zero yelled.

"Not without you, we won't!" Smoke yelled back.

Suddenly Onero grabbed hold of Sub-Zero again and slammed him against the ground several times and against the wall. Sub-Zero's body went limp in his grasp c from the beating.

"If I go!" Onero hissed. "I won't be going alone!"

Then, the beast opened his mouth widely, his razor-sharp teeth drooling.

"SUBSY! Sonya yelled and started to advance forward, but a huge part of the ceiling almost fell on top of her and would have crushed her if it was not for Dusk pulling her backwards.

Realizing what Onero planned to do, Sub-Zero outstretched his arm and forced more cold energy through it, forming another ice spear in his right hand Onero opened wide, getting ready to take a bite out of the ice ninja. And he would have done so, except right before he bit down, Sub-Zero threw forth the ice spear and stuck

it end-toned inside the beast<sup>3</sup>'s mouth! Not realizing this, Onero chomped down, and the sharp ends of the spear got IMPALED through the top of his head, and the bottom of his jaw!

The beast screamed in pain as blood smattered on the ground, as he waved his head around, trying to get the spear loose. But the ends were too far jammed into his flesh, as Sub-Zero was still holding onto it, while Onero held onto him!

"Get the hell Onto/this place!" Sub-Zero shouted at the others. "The place is coming down!"

"Let's go!" Hydro yelled, grabbing hold of Sonya's arm and motioning to the exit.

"But what about Subsy?" Sonya yelled back.

"He'll be fine!" Hydro replied. "Now let's go!"

She started to back away, then turned around and left with the others, she stopped at the end of the exit and looked back at Sub-Zero once more.

"GO!" Sub-Zero yelled, as he forced more cold energy through the spear.

He could see Sonya's lips tremble and her eyes begin to water as she again turned and disappeared along with the others

Meanwhile, Onero still struggled to free himself of the ice spear stuck in his head, but he could do nothing to get out,

Sub-Zero channelled even more cold energy through the ice of the spear and into Onero's head! Suddenly, from the areas in which the spear impaled, a thick sheet of ice slowly spread out and covered the head of the massive beast. Onero screamed in pain as his head was turned to ice, everything up to his neck was frozen solid!

But the ice ninja wasn't finished after he had frozen Onero's head even though the beast's claws were still around him, he began pulling as hard as he could. A cracking sound could be heard, and the ice around the neck began breaking apart.

Hydro clanged at Sonya's hand, pulling her with him as he ran. Mountains of rock fell behind them as the building was starting to give away. Sonya held for her life, trying to keep up with the others.

"Run faster Sonya!" Hydro yelled. "We're almost out of the building!"

As Sonya ran, tears flew from her eyes as she realized she just lost another person she loved.

Sub-Zero continued pulling the spear impaled in Onero's head, until finally, with one strengthened jerk he managed to RIP the head of Onero from his neck!



Onero's blood sprayed forth from the neck, and the claw lost its grip on the ice ninja. Sub-Zero fell on to the ground, with the ice spear, and Onero's head, still in his grasp!

Suddenly Onero's body fell backwards breaking the last piece of pillar wearily holding the place up, as more and more rocks and debris fell down.

Sub-Zero held his arm up above his head as the whole building collapsed and fell!

Smoke and the others just made it out in time as the whole building collapsed in a heap!

As the dust settled, Smoke, Sonya, Hydro, Dusk and Rain lowered their arms from their faces, and looked at the fallen rubble. "NOOOOOOOOO!" Sonya screamed

"By the gods!" Rain whispered to himself.

"Sub-Zero," Smoke said, crouching down and picking up a rock. "Farewell, my brother..."

Smoke closed his eyes shut tightly and accidentally crushed the rock in the pressure of his fist.

His brother walked and stood behind him. He gently placed his hand on Smoke's shoulder.

"I am sorry for your loss, brother." Dusk said. "I know how it feels like to lose somebody important to you.."

Smoke stood up and looked at his brother and then saw Sonya behind him, crouched down on both knees, crying and Hydro trying to comfort her.

"I knew there would be some kind of sacrifice," Sonya sniffed. "I knew there would be pain, but I didn't know how much pain... until now."

CONTINUED IN EPILOGUE

# MORTAL KOMBAT

## CLASH OF THE CLANS

### EPILOGUE

#### BY HEINOUS HEIN

Ja'Kaar sat in the wooden and marble chair, leaning back, staring with his half-closed eyes into the space before him; various statues and pillars surrounded him. Several thick beams of pale blue light poured in through various openings in the walls and ceilings, lighting up the room with the help of some candles and torches. Despite this, Ja'Kaar's wood and face was still completely concealed in shadows, leaving only his bright white eyes visible.

However, no man dared look him in the eyes. Not in the mood he was in.

He tightened the fingers of his right hand repeatedly, never really letting them get hold on the dragon-shaped armrest. Under his closed lips, he tightly clenched his teeth. It was obvious to anyone who saw him at this very moment that he was no one to be trifled with.

The mighty Onero had fallen at the hands of the Outworld-turned-Earthrealm warrior, Sub-Zero. But not at the cost of losing his life as well. Onero had always been an annoying whiner, weak of mind and soul. Sub-Zero did him a favour of killing Onero himself.

Suddenly, through the door on the side of the room, a masked armed guard walked down a short set of stairs, and stood before Ja'Kaar in a bowed position.

"Yes, what is it?" Ja'Kaar said, in a surprisingly calm voice.

The guard rose and stood up straight. "My Lord, the monk named Shujinko has achieved his goal of retrieving part of the Kamidogu from the Realm of Chaos."

"Good."

Ja'Kaar smiled underneath his hood. Even after this failed 'tournament' and

Quan Chi's attempt of breaking free the fallen Elder God, Shinnok. He knew if Shinnok succeeded somehow, his reign will be short lived, as the true Emperor of Outworld will return very shortly.

"Shujinko will never realize that he is being played by Onaga himself until it is too late." Ja'Kaar laughed, and carried on laughing as it echoed through the whole fortress.

The moon was just beginning to peek out from behind the clouds shrouding the night sky. Its brilliant light bounced around eternally rippling surface of the Chai Won Bay in Hong Kong, numerous people was gathered at Pier 20, waiting to hear good news or, for some, news that the person they loved is no longer.

Kitana, Liu Kang and one of Sonya Blade's long-time friends, Major Jackson 'Jax' Briggs were among the people waiting and expecting good news. Most other people were the fiancés, wives, children and clan members.

Suddenly, in the distance, a massive cloud of white fog could be seen slowly approaching the dock; and as it did, its size seemed to increase to an even larger one than seconds before.

"They are here..." Liu Kang said, eyeing the white mist.

The fog cloud was no more than a quarter of a mile from the dock, and still slowly approaching. Suddenly, from out of its misty void came a most awesome sight; first the nose, then the muzzle and mouth, then the evil eyes, and finally, the entire head of a carved wooden dragon.

Kitana placed her hand on her chest, hoping that her friends, Sub-Zero and Sonya Blade were still alive, also for her former fiancé, Rain. Most other women around the Pier did the same, cupping their mouths, crying or leaning on a loved one.

As time progressed, more and more of this massive wooden beast emerged from the fog, trailing even more fog in its wake. As its body began to reveal itself, towers of flapping cloth sails could be seen, flailing wildly in the cool night air, complete with the gargantuanly tall mast holding them up. As more and more came forth from the fog, there was no doubt what it was.

A boat. An ancient one at that, carved into the body of an oriental dragon.

Kitana closed her eyes and quickly did a silent prayer, as Liu Kang and Jax watched the boat coming closer, displaying the dragon emblem on the main sail.

The fog crept from all around the boat and onto the dock, and spread out to an enormous size. Everyone outside the scene could see a massive cloud of white slowly expanding up the pier, and a massive dragon's head poking out of it from the side. But the strange thing was, on the inside of the fog, everything was fully visible, in all its frightening glory.

Suddenly, from either side of a gap in the rail of the boat's deck, two tall, dark brown cloaked guards walked and stood in the opening, as a long, steel plank extended and touched ground on the pier.

Finally, footsteps were heard as the remaining warriors walked out of the cabin and started downwards the plank

.

Those who survived joined their loved-ones and ninja clans on the pier, while those who were killed, left sorrow and heart-ache.

Kitana, Liu Kang and Jax looked up at the plank and searched through the remaining fighters for their friends. Finally, Smoke walked through the crowd of people, followed by Hydro, Dusk, Rain and Sonya.

As the three saw them, they gave a sigh of relief, but then realized there was someone missing.

Sonya Blade saw her three friends first and ran through the four!

She ran into the waiting arms of Jax, buried her head in his chest and started crying again.

Smoke approached them with a rather sad expression on his face. "Smoke!" Kitana shouted. "Thank God you are still alive!" "Where is Sub-Zero?" Liu Kang asked.

"Smoke, what happened to Sub-Zero?" Kitana also asked.

Smoke lowered his head. "He—he died, trying to stop Onero."

Kitana gasped and put a hand on her mouth. "No. How?"

"He died as the tower caved in," Hydro then said. "We made it out. He didn't.,,

Kitana turned her head towards Sonya. 'Oh Sonya. I'm really sorry.,,

"One more good man dead." Liu Kang said. "I'm tired. Tired of seeing lives ruined, potential wasted! "

Smoke and the others looked at the Shaolin monk.

"One day I will finish this all!" Liu Kang continued, clenching his fist. "Shang Tsung, Shao Kahn, and One day I will kill them all! I swear it! "

Rain approached Kitana.

"All heart-ache aside from now," Rain said. "Let's just be glad we're still alive. It's good to see you princess. '

"Likewise, Rain." Kitana replied.

Kitana gave Rain a big hug.

"So?" she said. "Where are you off to this time, Rain?"

"I do not know where I am going, nor what I will do when I get there." Rain answered. "Just as long as there is no more evil to fight. But if evil does raise its head, count me there to be at your side, princess. I want to make amends of whatever I did in the past.,"

Kitana smiled and nodded, then looked at Smoke.

"How about you, Smoke?" She asked.

"Basically the same," he answered. "With my partner no longer at my side, I do not know what to do next. He was always the one who called the shots.,"

Meanwhile, Hydro approached Sonya who was whipping away her tears.

"I bid you farewell, Sonya Blade." Hydro said. "It was a lovely circumstance that I met you. You have made a new friend over the last couple of days. Whenever need be, I will be there for you in the future. "

He looked up at Jax and nodded at him. "Take good care of her, big man. Death is never an easy thing to accept. Be there for her during hard times.,"

Jax nodded. "Grief is a personal thing ninja. But I'm always there for her. Farewell.,"



Hydro nodded and looked down toward Sonya again.  
"Farewell, Ms Blade.,,

"Farewell, Hydro." Sonya replied.

Hydro walked off, then stopped at the other four ninjas.

"It was an honour fighting at your sides, my 'brothers '."

He nodded. "Until we meet again. Farewell',

The others nodded as he left. "Farewell." They simultaneously said.

Dusk approached his brother. "I feel that I have to go now, brother." He said. "But till fate let us cross again. Farewell.,,

Dusk held out his hand and Smoke grabbed it.

"I will see you again, brother," Smoke said. "Maybe in the near future. But for now, I feel to go on ahead alone.

„

"I see. It was good to fight by your side again," Dusk smiled. "I must go now, brother. The Brotherhood is waiting for my return.,,

"Then I will detain you no longer. Farewell. "Smoke said, and they gave each other a hearty handshake.

As Dusk left, Rain approached Smoke. "I will see you again, Smoke." He said. "Our paths will likely cross again. Farewell.,,

"Farewell.,,

Rain nodded his head, then left.

As he left, Smoke then turned to Liu, Kitana, Sonya and Jax.

"I hate goodbyes." Smoke said.

"Smoke? <sup>L</sup>" Sonya said. "Why leave? Why not stay here with us? I mean, you need friends to comfort you now during this hard time, especially for you.."

"When tragedy comes into one's life," Smoke smiled. "It is dealt with in different ways, as for friends? My friends tend to get dead, sooner or later! "

"But you 'll be all alone! " Sonya replied.

"Maybe," Smoke smiled and turned around. "But... Maybe that's just the way it's supposed to be."

"Farewell." Smoke said and started to walk off into the distance.

"Bye Smoke!" Sonya yelled after him.

As Smoke walked, he threw up his hand in saying he got the message.

Sonya smiled as he walked off. Suddenly, a very cold breeze flew by.

"Brrrrrrr!" Jax said. "It's getting cold out here. Let's go home everyone? "

The others agreed as it did grew a bit chilly, and they turned around and walked off towards Jax's car.

As they left, they were unaware that they were being watched. On a distant rooftop, away from prying eyes, stood a figure. The figure stood with his legs spread, head looking down, as his eyes watched the four figures walking off. His hands at his sides, balled in fists. He was dressed in black; two stripes of blue went up his chest and down his back, revealing a black V-like sign on his chest. He wore blue arm and shin guards, and a blue belt and loincloth, which flapped in the wind. He wore a black hood on his head and a blue mask that covered his mouth and nose that left his blue eyes staring downward. A thick red stripe ran across his right eye. The figure watched as the four climbed into the car and drove off; he then turned around and disappeared into the darkness.

THE END